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Near East & South Asia

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LD2707125088 [Editorial Report]

Iran and the United States

If the Americans are "truly sincere" in wanting discussions with Iran they must show they are no longer "hostile" by freeing frozen Iranian assets, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in an interview broadcast by Tehran television.

If they do this Iran will use its influence in Lebanon to "solve their problem of the hostages," he added.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

A military communique broadcast by Tehran radio acknowledged that "the black-hearted monafeqin" participated in the attack on Eslamabad-e Gharb but claimed that Iranian Government forces recaptured and "completely purged" the city after surrounding it from several sides.

The Iranians reportedly killed 1,100 "monafeqin" (Iran's term for the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq) as well as an unspecified number of Iraqi troops.

An Iranian military source cited by the radio said the Iraqis used "mercenary and counterrevolutionary elements" to infiltrate and kill inhabitants of Eslamabad-e Gharb, asserting that this was a "new trick" aimed at preparing the ground for new Iraqi "aggressions."

The Iraqis are still attempting to establish a foothold inside Iran to force the latter into offering concessions, the spokesman maintained.

On the situation in other areas 26 July, the Iranian communique claimed that Iranian forces repulsed Iraqi attacks in the Piranshahr region, the central sector, and the southern front, killing over 2,000 Iraqis and destroying "dozens" of tanks.

The following day, Iranian Revolution Guards attacked Iraqi positions in the Shalamcheh area north of Khorramshahr, recapturing 30 sq km of Iranian territory and pushing the Iraqis out of Iran, according to IRNA.

Tehran radio claimed that over 1,200 Iraqis were killed or wounded in this operation.

The Iranian authorities' claim to have recaptured Eslamabad-e Gharb was denied by the clandestine Voice of Mojahed radio; which stated that the Iranian National Liberation Army (INLA) was "destroyed all attacking Iranian forces," INA noted.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq radio also stated that the INLA captured an IRGC base and began advancing toward Kermanshah (the former name for Bakhtaran).

On the location of Iraqi forces, a military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio announced that the Iraqis evacuated the Iranian hamlet of Kulan in accordance with their pledge to withdraw from Iranian territory.

Nevertheless, Hashemi-Rafsanjani told Tehran television that Iraq is still occupying "extensive" parts of Iran, including Naft-e Shahr, Qasr-e Shirin, other cities, and "sensitive" border heights.

Iraq "stated falsely that it is retreating unilaterally," he said.

As for aerial activity, an Iraqi communique carried by Baghdad radio said the Iraqi Air Force raided two Iranian air bases and radar stations 26 July, as well as several heliports and military camps.

Six helicopters were hit on the ground in the Kermanshah area, the communique asserted.

IRNA claimed that Iraqi planes dropped chemical bombs on Iranian positions in the southern sector.

An Iranian aircraft was shot down by Iraqi air defenses on the southern front 27 July, according to a military spokesman cited by INA.

Regarding the issue of direct negotiations between the two sides, the Iranian ambassador to Paris told journalists that Iran will "consider studying" direct talks if the UN secretary general believes they are necessary, AFP reported.

In his televised interview, Hashemi-Rafsanjani endorsed President 'Ali Khamene'i's recent remarks on direct talks, stating that Iran would be willing to take action in this regard at "the proper time" and when "a need is felt" for direct talks.

This will take away "excuses" from the Iraqis, he said, adding that one of the "best achievements" of Iran's new policy is that "today the world's view of us is a good one."

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd gave his annual address to commanders and officers of the Armed Forces, National Guard, and Internal Security Forces after the hajj pilgrimage, according to SPA.

Fahd told the soldiers that the "concepts, aims, and goals" of the hajj have changed over the past 7 years.

"New concepts" were being "infiltrated" from a "Muslim neighbor" that seeks to change Islamic concepts into political ones, Fahd stated.

He added that Saudi and other Muslim ulema have "denounced" these new concepts as "beyond the limits" of Islam.

Fahd touched on the events of last year's Mecca pilgrimage, saying the killing was caused by Iranians and not Saudi soldiers or citizens.

He cited statistics on the reduction of the numbers of pilgrims from all countries "according to a specific rate" and said the rate had been agreed on by "all the Muslim leaders."

The restrictions were imposed because of the deterioration of facilities for the pilgrims, Fahd said, and the government welcomes private initiatives to repair those facilities.

Discussing Saudi Arabia's recent arms purchases, Fahd said the country "would not hesitate" to buy weapons from any country as long as the weapons were "the best of their kind."

Saudi Arabia's ties with the world are based on interests, not on sentiments, Fahd added.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche announced the formation of a new government and a Cabinet reshuffle and named new justice, foreign, and public health ministers, Tunis radio reported.

Abdelhamid Escheikh was named foreign minister, Hamed Karoui justice minister, and Saad Eddine Zmerli the new public health minister, the radio said.

Abdallah Kallel was named secretary general for national defense with rank of minister, the radio added.

Israel

Delegation to USSR—The five-member Israeli consular delegation left for the Soviet Union, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the delegation is due to arrive in Moscow 27 July after obtaining visas in Amsterdam.

Occupied Territories—The IDF is investigating allegations that a 13-year-old girl was killed and four other Arabs wounded by IDF gunfire in a Gaza Strip refugee camp, Jerusalem radio reported.

Soldiers opened fire in the Al-Shati' camp, "possibly killing the girl," after bricks were thrown at them, the radio noted.

The camp was subsequently placed under curfew, IDF radio disclosed.

On the situation in the West Bank, IDF radio said that Jewish residents in Hebron take a "very grave" view of an explosion which occurred in the town.

The makeshift charge caused no casualties, but the settlers indicated their intention to retaliate.

Afghanistan

President Najibullah addressed a number of "armed opposition" members who were in Kabul under the 'Id al-Adha safe passage decree, Kabul radio reported.

He told them that the city is capable of defending itself and that life is "continuing peacefully" despite recent rocket attacks.

Nonetheless, he called on the opposition groups to "stop firing" and join the coalition government, declaring that the government is ready to give the opposition "many more positions."

Najibullah told the group that "many parties" can operate "freely and publicly" in the country as long as they "are not against" constitutional provisions.

On the Soviet troop withdrawal, Najibullah said it is proceeding according to the stipulated timetable.

By 15 August Soviet troops will remain only in Herat, Kabul, Parvan, Baghlan, and Samangan, he stated.

In the past 6 weeks "extremists" fired 177 rockets at Kabul, killing 75 and wounding 98, according to a letter from the foreign minister to the United Nations, cited by TASS.

The letter asked for UN help to end U.S. and Pakistani "brazen violations" of the Geneva accords, TASS noted.

Egypt

Report on Speaker al-Mahjub's Moscow Visit

JN2607135988 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
25 Jul 88 p 6

[Sami Mitwalli dispatch from Moscow]

[Excerpts] Soviet leaders warmly received the Egyptian parliamentary delegation which visited Moscow. Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairmen of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and all Soviet leaders who met the delegation everywhere welcomed the promotion of bilateral relations in all fields.

They also affirmed their support for Egypt's stand toward the Middle East issue and toward holding an international conference. They welcomed Iran's acceptance of the Security Council resolution and expressed their eagerness to end the Gulf war and withdraw from Afghanistan. They stressed the need to coordinate relations with Egypt in all parliamentary and international fora.

Gromyko conveyed a messsage of appreciation, love, and greeting from Soviet leader Gorbachev and all Soviet leaders to President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people through Rif'at al-Mahjub. [passage omitted]

Gromyko, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman, made sure that his meeting with the Egyptian People's Assembly came at the end of the delegation's visits and meetings on all levels. Contrary to custom, the meeting lasted about 3 hours in the Grand Ekaterinskiy Hall of the Kremlin Palace.

When the time set for the meeting expired and Gromyko had to go to another meeting, he sent one of his aides to attend that meeting instead of going himself.

This affirms the importance of his meeting with the Egyptian people's representatives headed by Rif'at al-Mahjub, to whom Gromyko said before leaving the Kremlin: We hope to see you again in the Soviet Union.

Gromyko's meeting with the Egyptian delegation was totally frank. Gromyko, who is past 70, talked about all issues objectively and clearly with a youthful spirit. [passage omitted]

Gromyko started his speech by welcoming the Egyptian parliamentary delegation on behalf of the Soviet leadership. He affirmed Gorbachev's interest in meeting the delegation, had he not had to travel to Poland to attend important party meetings there, which prevented him from attending this meeting.

The delegation carried the greetings of Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership to President Mubarak and the Egyptian people on their serious stands toward promoting their country's development and their concern for peace in the world and the Middle East.

Dr al-Mahjub began his talk by conveying the greetings of the Egyptian leadership, headed by President Husni Mubarak, to President Gromyko, General Secretary Gorbachev, and the Soviet leadership and people.

He also conveyed the greetings and appreciation of the Egyptian People's Assembly, the representative of the whole people, to the Soviet Union for the help that it offered. He affirmed that, for the Egyptian people, the [Aswan] High Dam is a manifestation of the depth of creative cooperation and friendship.

He said: I intended to begin the talk with gratitude because, despite the developments that took place at some stages, we proceed in this new phase with such a perception.

He said: I am happy with Soviet-Egyptian relations, which are going well now. In the latest session of the People's Assembly, an accord between Egypt and the Soviet Union was ratified. It was a good opportunity in the Assembly to praise the Soviet role and to affirm the need to develop bilateral economic relations.

Dr al-Mahjub said: There is a large basis for political agreement between Egypt and the Soviet Union. Economic relations are important, and we hope that they can be increased. The debt agreement is probably the best evidence of the Soviet Union's close cooperation with Egypt. This is also the case in industry and manufacturing.

Andrey Gromyko explained the development of Soviet-Egyptian relations throughout their different stages. He asserted that the parliamentary delegation's visit has great importance.

He expressed hope this visit would lay a strong basis for future relations, and that the visit will be a step toward strengthening all links of friendship and bolstering relations in all fields.

Gromyko affirmed the need to take swift and practical steps to achieve a just and durable settlement in the Middle East based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and securing the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

He also affirmed the need to convene the international Middle East peace conference under United Nations auspices with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

He said: Israel must end its expansionist policies. He expressed concern about the continuation of the Gulf war and its consequences on international peace and security. He hoped that Iran's declared acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598 would come into effect. He said the resolution is a fair and balanced basis for settling the Gulf conflict.

In his meeting with the Soviet leaders headed by President Gromyko, Dr al-Mahjub raised important issues. He said: We are very satisfied with the U.S.-Soviet rapprochement, and we look at what has been acheived in nuclear arms elimination and arms race limitation, thanks to the efforts of the Soviet leadership.

Arms elimination, however, will not stop at the stage it has reached. Nuclear arms anywhere threaten peace everywhere. Nuclear arms in some regions, such as Israel, definitely threaten peace everywhere. In the superpower's dialogue on nuclear arms limitation, it should be considered that nuclear arms must be eliminated in all parts of the world.

Dr al-Mahjub said that during the U.S.-Soviet dialogue, the U.S. side touched on the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel. We have no right to object to any topic of discussion between the two superpowers but we have the right to reply to the U.S. logic.

The U.S. side believes that any move to ban emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel is against human rights. Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union to Israel will settle in the West Bank and Gaza. This will result in expelling more Arabs to make room for the immigrants.

I would like to ask: What about the Arab citizen's human rights? The U.S. side is talking about Jewish human rights and not Arab human rights.

President Gromyko interrupted Dr al-Mahjub and said that the U.S. side is dealing with this issue forcefully and improperly.

Dr al-Mahjub said: That is why I reply to the U.S. logic. The concept of justice being defended by the Soviet Union will prevail. Which is fairer: To let the Jews exercise their rights as citizens where they are or to expel the Arabs from their homeland and replace them by Soviet Jews? And which is better and closer to justice: The right to emigrate or the right to remain in the homeland?

If we have to make a choice, we would prefer the right to remain in the homeland to the right to emigrate to any other place. Nevertheless, we respect the right to emigrate only to Israel after the establishment of a homeland for the Palestinians.

Then Dr al-Mahjub moved to the Palestine question. He told the Soviet leaders that Shamir rejects the idea of the international conference because it is a Soviet idea and that Shamir told Ceausescu about this point.

Dr al-Mahjub added: I asserted to the Romanian president that we cannot reject an idea because it is Soviet and we cannot accept an idea because it is American. I asked him why they fear the international conference.

I acquainted myself with the talks which took place between the Soviet leaders and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. We are deeply satisfied with these talks. Therefore, we can say that our positions are very close regarding the Palestine question.

Dr al-Mahjub added: President Gromyko asked if there is something new in the region. I want to affirm that we appreciate and support the PLO's role, that there is always an understanding between us and the PLO, that we consider it the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and that we know that close relations exist between the PLO and the occupied territories.

We would like to disclose an important fact: that the uprising is not being run from outside the occupied territories and that the generation that started the uprising is the generation that was born and grew up under the Israeli occupation.

Here, we can reach an important conclusion: The Israelis thought that they would contain the Arabs under occupation, but they discovered that this is impossible. Abba Eban, who defended the partitioning resolution, may have recently persuaded himself of the difficulty of coexistence within one state. He announced in the French newspaper LE MONDE the need to go back to the partitioning resolution, which revolves around the idea that it is impossible to grant Israel the right to establish a state and deprive the Palestinians of that right.

Dr al-Mahjub told Gromyko: I am happy to hear you voice the Soviet Union's support for the Egyptian-Arab rapprochement and also to know that mistrust which has vanished from Egyptian-Soviet ties has also vanished from Egypt's Arab relations. I also hope that this mistrust will not return. Dr al-Mahjub affirmed that Egyptian-Arab relations are proceeding normally and that Egypt's complaints in this regard pertain to only a few stands.

He added: Egypt does not understand the stand taken by fraternal Algeria. The manifestations of our relations with Algeria have not risen to the level of the real ties binding us to Algeria. However, we are not prompting others to accelerate things. We are anxious to preserve the unity of the Arab word, as this serves Arab interests.

I also believe that the Soviet Union can help improve Syrian-PLO relations and entrench the independent Palestinian decisonmaking which we, just like you, desire to protect and preserve.

I do not know why it has become difficult for the Syrian leadership to digest the idea of independent Palestinian decisionmaking. I also believe that the Soviet Union can tackle these partial issues which pertain to the Arab stance. We also want Soviet help in realizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The excellent and just formula which we approve of is the land for peace formula. We stand side by side with the Palestinians.

However, we do not want to speak for them or replace them. This is also the stand of His Majesty King Husayn who asserted more than once that he will neither act on behalf of the Palestinians nor speak for them. The Palestinians speak for themselves. We and you have to help them in this.

Dr al-Mahjub said that these are small issues. He added: However, they obstruct the great march in the Arab world. We view with pleasure Iran's announcement of its acceptance of the UN Security Council resolution. It is high time for us to end regional wars.

Chairman Gormyko said: We have to reach a positive stand and exert intensive efforts in this regard. Furthermore, the Arabs, the ones concerned with these issues, must reach unified stands.

Dr al-Mahjub replied: This is a very important point. Besides, Egypt calls for the convening of an international conference and is anxious to see the Soviet Union participate in this conference, as we do not want to see Israel and the Untied States manipulate the situation there. We want the international conference to guarantee a solution for us and also to protect the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Gromyko answered: This brings us comfort. We will do our best to improve the relationship between the Syrian leadership and the PLO leadership. We talked with the Syrian president on this. No progress has been made so far. However, we will continue our efforts in this direction.

Gromyko added: I believe that the improvement of Egypt's relations with all Arab states, particularly through the exchange of expertise, will serve Arab interests in general.

President Gromyko spoke about the Afghan issue. He said: The USSR signed agreements in Geneva under which it pledged to gradually withdraw its forces from Afghanistan. It seems that Pakistan and of course the United States behind it are those who obstruct the settlement of the issue.

The USSR is fully convinced that the Afghan people should agree among themselves on the new command. The sanguinary struggle they are waging should end immediately. We are assuming our responsibilities and carrying out all that we have promised under the Geneva agreements.

However, we cannot account for the stands of the other parties which signed the agreements—namely Pakistan and the United States. Our stand could change in light of the other parties' stands. Our only objective is to have a nonaligned and neutral Afghanistan.

At the end of the meeting, President Gromyko said: I hope that following your return to Egypt, you will convey warm greetings from me and Gorbachev to President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people.

Comrade Gorbachev has asked me to convey his personal greetings to you and to all the People's Assembly members.

Dr al-Mahjub told Gromyko: The Egyptian command is interested in what is taking place in the USSR and wishes you success in your new policies. He also said: President Mubarak has also asked me to convey to the USSR leadership and to leader Gorbachev his best wishes for success.

Gromyko ended the meeting by saying: Permit me to express on behalf of all those attending our satisfaction with this meeting and these talks. We hope that amity and sincerity will prevail so that relations may constantly progress and develop.

He said: I remembered an Egyptian proverb which I had heard while I was sitting near Khufu Pyramid. This proverb says that man fears time and time fears the pyramids.

While President Gromyko was shaking hands with the members of the Egyptian delegation, Yasin Siraj al-Din, chairman of the Wafd Party parliamentary commission stood up and expressed support for the USSR stand and for the development of Egyptian-Soviet relations.

Cairo, Jordan To Urge Consultations on Peace

PM2607095388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jul 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian-Jordanian Endeavors To Reactivate Peace Process"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau--AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed Egyptian sources that Egypt and Jordan have agreed to urge both the United States and the Soviet Union to conduct consultations with the European states over the Middle East problem in order to overcome their points of disagreement.

The sources emphasized that the U.S.-Soviet disagreement over the basis for resolving the Middle East problem is still linked to defining the role of the international conference and that of the big powers at it, and also to Palestinian representation.

Also, that Moscow has proposed that a preliminary committee comprising the five permanent members of the Security Council be speedily formed to prepare for the conference and compile a report on the steps required for convening the conference.

Meanwhile, diplomatic reports in Cairo indicate that Jordan has reemphasized its unwillingness to make any concessions to help U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' plan succeed, especially as it contains an emphasis on previous U.S. stands, insistence that the PLO be invited to attend the international conference, and rejection of any partial plan aimed at returning the West Bank to Jordan without a comprehensive and just solution.

The reports indicate that Egypt and Jordan agree on their dissatisfaction with continuing U.S. efforts to strengthen Israeli military power, thus preserving the strategic balance of power in favor of Israel, which could prompt it to embark on military action against the states of the region, especially after the signing of an agreement on cooperation to establish a network of anti-missile missiles in Israel and reports that Israel has obtained from U.S. sources maps showing the locations of missiles in some Arab states.

Minister Makramallah Leaves for Jordan

NC2707105888 Cairo MENA in English 1020 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, July 27 (MENA)—An economic delegation led by Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, left here this noon for Amman on a five-day official visit to Jordan.

The visit is meant to prepare for the meetings of the joint higher Egyptian-Jordanian committee which is to meet in Amman on July 29 and last till August first, with prime ministers of both countries sharing the chairmanship, the minister said.

The delegation will also see to ways to follow up the work of the Egyptian-Jordanian holding company which works in the field of animal wealth, maritime and land transport and other development projects of interest to the two countries, he added.

They will also prepare ground for the signing of a trade agreement between Egypt and Jordan and explore the possibility for furtherming economic and technical cooperation between them.

Joint Communique With Chad Issued 20 Jul

NC2007132388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Egypt and Chad have voiced their support for the Palestinian people's national rights, particularly their right to self-determination. They stressed that no just and permanent peace could be achieved in this region without respecting these rights and without Israel returning all the Arab territories occupied since June 1967.

In a joint communique issued on the outcome of Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou's talks with the Egyptian officials, the two countries expressed their support for convening an international Middle East peace conference under UN auspices and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO.

Both Egypt and Chad lauded the Palestinian people's heroic resistance in the West Bank and Gaza and strongly condemned the repressive and violent practices pursued by the Israeli occupation forces against defenseless Palestinian civilians.

The two countries called for the immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Gulf war. They also denounced the policy of apartheid in South Africa and called on the international community to impose mandatory sanctions against the South African regime and to put UN Security Council Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia into effect.

The Chadian side, on its part, voiced support for the Egyptian Government's hosting the quadrupartite talks on the independence of Namibia and peace in Angola.

Both Egypt and Chad expressed their conviction that implementing the UN and OAU resolutions is the only way to settle the issue of Western Sahara. The two countries expressed their agreement on the need to hold an international conference on the African foreign debts and welcomed the rapproachement between the two superpowers.

Sidqi Denies Foreign Currencies Shortage

NC2007132588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has denied rumors that Egypt is facing an acute foreign currencies shortage and that it does not have enough to cover its needs. He stressed that the position of foreign currencies at the present stage is excellent and reassuring and that the import of basic commodities is being handled normally.

In a statement to the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published Friday [22 July], Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that these rumors only aim to create confusion favoring malicious interests and objectives.

He added that the spreading of such lies is aimed only at spreading confusion in the foreign currency blackmarket in Egypt and driving up the price of foreign currencies.

Dr Sidqi praised the success of the free banking market and said the monetary income from it has reached $3.6 billion as of 1 July. He added that this figure is reassuring and it means that the free banking market is fulfilling its objectives.

He noted that Egypt, like other developing countries, needs more foreign currencies than its resources allow, but the Egyptian Government is making efforts to develop sources of foreign currencies by increasing income from tourism, attracting capital investment in Egypt, and also attracting the savings of Egyptian expatriates.

Investment Companies Urged Not To Leave

PM2607151388 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 25 Jul 88 p1

[Unattributed report: "Government Trying To Persuade Investment Companies To Go Back on Liquidation of Their Operations in Egypt"]

[Text] The government is examining in complete secrecy the position of some of the investment companies that have liquidated their operations in Egypt recently.

AL-AHRAR has learned that contacts are being made with a group of the companies, which are intending to wind up their operations in Egypt because of government bureaucracy and the promulgation of conflicting economic decisions, to persuade them to reconsider.

The Investment Board has promised these companies that it will hold a series of meetings with them in order to secure practical solutions to their problems with government bureaucracy. Such meetings are expected to begin after the 'Id al-Adha holiday with a view to salvaging what can be salvaged.

Ministry Notes Paper's Violation of Report Ban

NC2607203188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has stated that in the wake of the raid by security forces on the hideout of escaped convicts from Turrah Prison and the death of the fugitive villain 'Isam al-Qamari, a daily newspaper has published a report which greatly exceeds the facts and true course of events.

In view of the fact that the published news is totally devoid of truth and contravenes a decision banning publication, previously issued by the counselor public prosecutor, the Prosecutor's Office has been notified to take the necessary legal measures.

The Interior Ministry urges all media and press organs to abide by the decision banning publication issued by the counselor the public prosecutor, for the good of the investigation and the public interest.

Libya

Foreign Ministry Cables UN on U.S. Exercises

LD2607205288 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has said that the U.S. decision to send thousands of U.S. Marines to occupied Palestine under the pretext of staging land and air exercises and turning the Arab land in occupied Palestine into a training ground is aimed at terrorizing Arabs in occupied Palestine and suppressing their massive uprising.

In a message addressed to the president of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general, he added that the military alliance between U.S. imperialism and the Zionist entity is directed primarily at the entire Arab existence and is leading to an increase in tension which is also threatening world security and regional peace.

He indicated that U.S. imperialism's criminal role is confirmed through its coordination with the Zionist entity, the material and moral support offered to the latter, and its military presence in the region.

The brother secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison also warned about the seriousness of these developments caused by U.S. imperialism and stressed the need for urgent measures and moves with a view to safeguarding world security and peace and sparing the region further tension due to the U.S. military presence.

Tunisia

Baccouche Announces Government Reshuffle

LD2607120988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 JUL 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred at the Republican Palace in Carthage this morning with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, who stated, following

the meeting, that the president of the Republic has decided to form a new government as follows:

Prime Minister:	Hedi Baccouche
Minister of State for interior:	Habib Ammar
Minister of justice:	Dr Hamed Karoui.
Minister of foreign affairs:	Abdelhamid Escheikh.
Secretary general for the Presidency with the rank of minister:	Mohamed El Jeri
Secretary general for national defense with the rank of minister:	Abdallah Kallel.
Governor of the Central Bank with the rank of minister:	Ismail Khelil
Minister of planning:	Mohamed Ghannnouchi
Minister of finance:	Nouri Zorgati
Minister of information	Abdelmalik Laarif
Minister of industry and trade:	Moncef Belaid
Minister of energy and minerals:	Sadok Rabah
Minister of equipment and housing:	Moncef Mouelhi
Minister of transportation:	Ahmed Smaoui
Minister of tourism and handicrafts:	Mohamed Jegham
Minister of cultural affairs:	Habib Boulares
Minister of national education:	Hedi Khelil
Minister of higher education and scientific research:	Abdessalem M'seddi
Minister of public health:	Professor Saadeddine Zmerli
Minister of agriculture:	Slaheddine Ben M'barek
Minister of communications:	Brahim Khouaja
Minister of social affairs:	Taoufik Cheikhrouhou
Minister of youth and sports:	Dr Hamouda Ben Slama
Secretary general for the Government with the rank of minister:	Houssine Cherif
Secretary of state for national security at the Interior Ministry:	Chadli Neffati.
Secretary of state at the Interior Ministry in charge of regional administration and public localities:	Amor Bejaoui
Secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry:	Habib Ben Yahia
Secretary of state at the Ministry of Equipment and Housing and Construction:	Mohamed Ali Bouleymane
Secretary of state at the Ministry of Public Health:	Taher Azaiez
Secretary of state at the Ministry of Agriculture:	Mohsen Boujbel
Secretary of state at the Ministry of Agriculture in charge of fishing and water resources:	Ameur Horchani
Minister of state at the Ministry of Social Affairs:	Souad Khadraoui Jomni.

President To Sign 'Newly Amended' Constitution

LD2507163388 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0821 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpts] We celebrate Republic Day, the great day which comes to strengthen the sovereignty, glory, and dignity of our cherished country. Shortly, on this 31st anniversary of the Republic, President of the Republic Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will sign a newly amended Constitution at the Chamber of Deputies. [passage omitted]

The new Constitution amended 8 articles in the old Constitution. These articles are Nos 21; 28; 39; 40; 57; 60; 62; and 63.

Article 39 in paricular in its new version says: The president of the Republic is to be elected for a term of 5 years in a general, free, direct, and secret election during the last 30 days of the presidential term, in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the electoral law.

If election is not possible on the date fixed because of a state of war or imminent danger, the presidential term is extended through a law until election is possible. The president of the Republic may renew his nomination twice in succession.

Another equally important article is article 57. This article stipulates that should the position of president of the Republic become vacant as a result of death, resignation, or total capacity, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies immediately assumes the duties of the head of state for a period of 45 days as a minimum and 60 days as a maximum.

The one who assumes the duties of the president of the Republic temporarily takes the constitutional oath before the Chamber of Deputies, and if necessary before the Chamber's bureau. The one who acts as temporary president of the Republic is not permitted to nominate himself, even in the form of presenting his resignation, to the office of the presidency.

The acting interim president of the Republic accepts presidential duties on the understanding that he cannot resort to a referendum, terminate the duties of the government, dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, or take extraordinary measures stated in Article 46.

During the interim presidential term he cannot censure the government. During the interim presidential term, a new president of the Republic will be elected for a term of 5 years.

The new president of the Republic may dissolve the Chamber of Deputies and call for legislative elections ahead of time in accordance with the paragraph 2 of Aticle 63. [passage omitted]

Article 60 is one of the other important articles that has been introduced as an amendment.

This article says: The prime minister runs and coordinates the work of the government and when necessary he acts for the president of the Republic by chairing the Council of Ministers or any other council. [passage omitted]

Let us go back to the new Constitution and the amended articles. One of them, Article 21, says that nomination of oneself to membership of the Chamber of Deputies is a right of every elector who was born of a Tunisian father and who has reached the age of 25 full years when nominating himself. This is a new element.

Election to, or nomination for, election to the Chamber of Deputies used to specify that the candidate must be older than 25 years. This provides an opening and a great opportunity to Tunisian youth to enter parliamentary life and to prove one's determination to participate in building the country. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Address to Army Commanders 23 Jul

LD2607133388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0535 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Mina, 26 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has asserted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not be an aggressive country but at the same time, it will not allow anyone to commit aggression against a single inch of its territory.

During his meeting with commanders and officers of the Armed Forces, the National Guard, and the internal security forces at the royal palace in Mina last Sunday evening [23 July], the custodian of the two holy mosques asserted that the Kingdom is strong thanks to God's help and its belief in Almighty God, as well as its reliance upon its sons. [passage omitted]

Here follows the text of the speech by the custodian of the two holy mosques, Kind Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, to the commanders and officers of the Armed Forces, the National Guard, and the internal security forces:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Peace and blessings be upon the most eminent of all prophets and messengers, our master Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him and upon all his family and friends.

We have become accustomed to meeting the commanders of our Armed Forces, the commanders of the National Guard, and the commanders of the internal security forces at this time every year.

There is nothing more important than my meeting with my brothers during these critical days which I know very well from the days when I was the interior minister. Those days were, however, totally different from the last few years, say the last 7 years.

Concepts, aims, and goals for performing the hajj have changed. Muslim scholars, whether in this country or elsewhere in the various Muslim communities throughout the world, as well as the leaders of the Islamic nation, have preceded me and given their clear and unambiguous views on what happened during last year's hajj; those words came one after the other from all Muslims communities wherever they may happen to be on earth.

I believe, however, that the matter was clear; the aim was not merely to help the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Islamic community's reaction took place out of the conviction of its leaders, people, and bodies—the latter even in some non-Islamic countries—that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had performed its duty, the duty which God ordered. [passage omitted]

All of us know that there were no problems except organizational problems regarding the roads and organizing the pilgrims with regard to their entry, whether that was by air, sea, or land and the distribution, organization, and arrangement of their lodging, their travel from Mecca to Mina and to Arafat and from there to Muzdelifa and back to Mina and then to Mecca and al-Madinah.

Regrettably, however, in the last few years new concepts have infiltrated from a Muslim neighbor country—naturally it can only be described as a Muslim and neighboring country—which sought one way or another to change the concepts of the Islamic faith into political concepts.

Many ulema from this country and from other countries have discussed this matter and they have denounced it as going beyond the limits of the Islamic faith, the revelations of Almighty God, and the duties of the pilgrimage as explained by the messenger of God, peace and prayers be upon him. [passage omitted]

During the pilgrimage of the year before last, that is, 1406 A.H. [corresponding to 1986] Iran smuggled in tens of bags full of explosives. This was in the morning of Friday, 3d of Dhu al-Hijjah of 1406 A.H.

Why did Iran want to smuggle in 10 bags full of explosives when we have all seen a single kilogram of it turn 2 cars into ashes in seconds?

Has Iran brought a prayer rug for God's holy house or for the prophet's mosque? We have tried to deal with the matter. A number of Muslim leaders intervened and stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had been tolerant so far; this should, however, be the limit.

They said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's tolerance is well known and they demanded—as there has been an admission and the matter has been ascertained beyond any doubt—that this should put an end to the matter, so that things can be put in their proper perspective. We reluctantly accepted this.

God knows that we do not like, at a certain moment and on a certain day, to disturb Muslims in holy Mecca and holy Medina as well as in other places where pilgrims happen to gather.

After the comprehensive confessions that the people who had given explosives to the Iranian pilgrims were members of the Revolutionary Guard Corps in Iran, one has to ask oneself: Why should such a thing take place?

What is between us and Iran? What does Iran want from us and we want from Iran? What is clear and unambiguous is that we do not want anything from it, as it should not want anything from us.

Anyone who knows Iran or has looked at a map of Iran should know that Iran, for various reasons, could be richer than any other country; it has oil, minerals, rivers, agricultural lands, and enough people. So what does it want from the countries of the Gulf, and most importantly Iraq?

Once again I say that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its officials have tried to do the impossible to reach a solution. The best solution is to ward off their malicious acts and not allow them to go further in their actions in the belief that we, when things are clear, will stop at a certain limit.

There is no fighting between us and Iran. We have not, furthermore, created any problems between Iran and ourselves. The current fighting is between Iran and Iraq, and it is with a country which has transgressed against Iraq. What more can Iraq do than defend itself?

I am sure that the brothers have heard and are still hearing what the Iranian leaders have been saying since the outset of the Iran-Iraq war, right up to that time that the Iranian leadership entered into some specific arrangements and designs with rulers of the Gulf countries.

The events of last year's hajj took place against our will. They were not, however, against the will of Almighty God, who avenged Himself at the end.

The point was merely that the Minister of Pilgrimage Affairs and Religious Trusts had certain orders: If matters were within a certain framework or were merely part of the devotional services, there was no objection that things could have taken place, although they should have taken place in a more acceptable manner except in special circumstances.

Saudi society was surprised, the Ministry of Pilgrimage Affairs and Religious Trusts was surprised, the Interior Ministry was surprised. I was surprised, and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was surprised, to see that the event was so big that within moments the gathering reached more than 75,000 people, as last year the Iranian pilgrims totalled 155,000-160,000 people.

The procession, which we were watching on television, then continued. The under secretary of the Ministry of Pilgrimage Affairs and religious trusts intercepted them and told them: This has gone too far.

It became clear that the aim of the procession was to carry not merely extra-large portraits of the Iranian leaders, but also placards with sayings that have no foundation in the Islamic faith.

The intention was to end the matter at a certain level; however, it developed to a degree whereby it was no more a question of a procession but rather an invitation to storm the sacred house of God.

Up to that moment the security men had no role except to maintain security. They were far from the Iranians and far from the citizens and pilgrims who were gathered. The security men were standing in the streets to maintain security and nothing else.

For any citizen or pilgrim standing there at the time who heard that the matter had gone beyond the mere displaying of portraits of persons, to become a question of occupying the mosque of Mecca, it became very difficult to exercise self control. No human being can exercise self-control in such circumstances, whether he is a Saudi citizen or a Muslim pilgrim come to perform the pilgrimage.

And when clashes broke out between citizens and the Iranian demonstrators, which led to the violence, we saw how the Iranians removed their clothes to reveal the uniform of the Revolutionary Guards; men and women. They were armed with weapons such as swords, and were carrying chemical materials in small containers. They set on fire everything they could reach in the streets, from cars to motorcycles to buildings and they started to kill.

Their clashes with the citizens required the intervention of the security forces who were present, although not yet nearby, in order to check the problem.

However, the Iranians did not accept the intervention of the security forces to prevent the problem and they attacked the security forces, killing, in the process, a number of citizens, members of the security forces, and pilgrims.

His Highness Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz [interior minister] then gave me a picture of the situation, the reality of the events and the main objective of them. Certain measures were taken which were ready for certain circumstances. And when the Iranians realized that they were no longer capable of reaching the sacred house of God, they turned to killing the innocent security men, pilgrims and Saudi citizens.

However, when they realized that we were determined to meet force with force to solve the problem, they started setting fire to houses and cars and began to retreat in their tens of thousands causing death to many people. If it is true that 400 people were killed as they claim, then they must have killed them. We knew there were a lot of people in cars, including the elderly, those affected by the war, and the young. The killing was caused by [the Iranians] and among them. It was not done by Saudi soldiers or citizens.

Almighty God wanted to disgrace them and so they retreated and scattered. I had received telephone calls and telegrams from Muslim leaders asking me to prevent the Iranians from peforming the pilgrimage and to gather them at a certain place to be taken to their planes or ships and not to be allowed to perform the pilgrimage.

However, because I knew that half of the [Iranian] pilgrims were old people who had nothing whatsoever to do with what happened—they were coerced into doing what they did not want to do and had no power to avert—they were left to perform the pilgrimage, if they wanted to, quietly and calmly. They were firmly informed that the matter had taken on a different nature and that every one of them had to follow the straight path. They completed their pilgrimage and some of them went on to Al-Madinah al-Munawwarah and the incident ended with their departure for home.

This incident did not stop them; they continued their conspiracies and plotting using their radio and press to distort the picture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, this deceived nobody except a small number of them.

Did the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia force the leaders of 45 Muslim countries, as was claimed at the Amman summit, to support the Kingdom or was the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia asked to take adequate steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. Everyone knows that we have no authority over any Muslim—No authority whatsoever over a Muslim person, state, or government nor any Muslim body anywhere on this globe, save through love and friendship.

This is why the Iranians have come to the conclusion that the act which they carried out has backfired on them. They did not, however, stop there. A number of Muslim scholars intervened in the hope that the problem might be solved and that normality would return between the Kingdom and Iran. The perverted might think that we are impotent or that we have a certain inability, but he would be wrong and mistaken.

The pride of the Saudi people, government, and military arises from their good ethics which have been handed down from father to son and because almighty God has entrusted them with the service of the two holy mosques.

The duty upon us is a big one. We should be proud of it so we can do what Almighty God has ordered us to do and what his prophet's and his wise caliphates and Muslim scholars have clarified for us. [passage omitted]

I must say again that a number of Muslim leaders wanted to see an end to matters between the Kingdom and Iran. As far as we are concerned we have no problem with them. We all know what they did to our embassy in Tehran and to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran. They even encroached upon protocol. What was the crime of citizens in a foreign country that their embassy should be burned down, their records taken, and some of the people killed?

What good did it do? Did we reciprocate? On the contrary, orders were issued to the Saudi Interior Ministry to protect Iran's Embassy and consulate as well as their officials and every Iranian in the Kingdom and, more than this, to treat them as any diplomat would be treated as long as he is in the Kingdom.

This is what happened in reality. Many brothers from the Arab countries and some of the Islamic countries tried to intervene to put an end to the situation. We did not refuse because, thank God, we know our capacity and as long as God's grace is on us, we will not turn down a chance to end these matters and bring them to a conclusion.

It was useless to try to discuss it with them because of their arbitrariness. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was asked to offer sums of money to 400 families named by them, to plead guilty to the world, and to ask forgiveness from the Iranian leadership.

This was their response, and I knew in advance that this would happen. Our brothers in the Islamic countries, whose knowledge of what the Iranians want might be less than mine, as far as I know, and as far as my practical contacts with them are concerned, became convinced that the Iranians did not want concord. Whereas as we do not want to have problems with anybody at all, especially with countries which call themselves Islamic.

It is not our task to follow any Islamic country regardless of the sect to which it adheres. It suffices that it says it is an Islamic country. Its people, religious judges, and citizens can assess and evaluate this or that matter correctly.

However, whatever a human being says, he is bound to be wrong more often than he is right. No one is immune from mistakes except for Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. [passage omitted]

Let us go back to what we were talking about earlier... The number of pilgrims who could come from Islamic countries has been restricted... The numbers have not been restricted so that large numbers of pilgrims would not come.

On the contrary. We are all well aware that there are not many buildings suitable for accommodating pilgrims in Mecca and al-madinah, and nearly all of them are old buildings liable to fall. It is even difficult for security officers to get into these places if a fire or something takes place.

Many citizens of Al-Madinah al-Munawwarah and Mecca al-Mukarramah came and expressed their desire to set up private companies in order to get large sums of money to repair those places which are liable to fall in order to make them into places fit for housing the pilgrims. The government welcomed this; we encourage them in this venture and they came up with very comprehensive and helpful solutions.

Many Islamic countries became aware of these arrangements and some of them suggested at the Amman summit that the construction should not go ahead and the number of pilgrims could not continue to be the same as it was—that it should be reduced for 3-4 years to reasonable numbers corresponding to the capacity of the accommodation available until everything was organized.

After that I do not believe that anyone would prevent a Muslim from undertaking the pilgrimage. If anyone has suffered it is the Saudi merchants who have been preparing goods for the pilgrims, because the pilgrims customarily buy what they need in Mecca al-Mukarramah, Al-Madinah al-Munawwarah, and Mina.

All Muslim leaders agreed to restrict numbers according to a specific rate. Iran's quota was set at 45,000 pilgrims. Later, they sent a delegation to discuss the matter with the Minister of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts. However, they did not accept the quota.

They uttered impolite words, and those who claim to be Muslims should not utter such words...[SPA elipses] They did not pay any attention to that issue; they refused and said...the number of Iranian pilgrims must not be less than 160,000 pilgrims and we will do whatever we want to do in Mecca al-Mukarramah and Al-Madinah al-Munawwarah. They were told that that was not possible under any circumstances...If you want the pilgrimage you will be allowed 45,000 pilgrims and they will be treated the same as the other Muslims...This is up to you personally.

We all know that they refused to come on the pilgrimage. We are not at all concerned about this, because the doors were not closed in their faces. They have the right like other Muslims. Countries with a larger population than theirs—some reaching 100 million, 70 million, or 80 million—reduced the number of pilgrims.

Even citizens from Saudi Arabia reduced their numbers although they used to come on pilgrimage every year. Even foreign workers, whether employed in the state apparatus or by private citizens, and who had performed the pilgrimage last year, or 2 years ago made do with their previous pilgrimage. As for those who were not able to perform the pilgrimage duty, no one can refuse them because it is an Islamic duty.

This was related to the Iranian sitation and the situation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. When we saw the situation reaching that level, it became unnecessary for Iran to keep its embassy here because our relations with Iran require commercial, diplomatic, and other consideratons. Essentially, our embassy was burned, its documents stolen, and some of its staff were killed. The rest of its officials had returned home. Therefore, it was deemed unnecessary to keep our embassy.

However, this did not mean the prevention of Iranian pilgrims from coming. The Iranian Embassy charge d'affaires and staff were asked to leave the country within a certain time. They were not forced to do anything, and were not charged with anything.

However, some of the Iranian papers and the Iranian radio claimed that they were tortured at the airport, yet they were shown on television with their wives and children in parks, being offered ever facility, including ice cream and food, etc. I believe that showing their activities on Saudi television was evidence enough to disprove such claims.

We hope that that we have heard about ending the state of war between Iraq and Iran is true, and that it is based on the conviction that the war, no matter how bad it was, will end. [passage omitted]

We do not want to become involved with Iran, or any other country, or with their problems. We hope that the Iraq-Iran war will comprehensively end. And I say again that Iran has no need to increase its territory by annexing other countries.

Iran and we need stability, and they need it more than we do. We hope that what it has announced stems from the total conviction that the war has to end. Iraq, fortunately, has recovered its territories by force, and Iraq's military capabilities have become a source of honor to the Arab nation and to the Iraqi people.

Iraq has not carried out an act harmful to Iran, nor does it want to harm it. I believe that most brothers heard the speech made by President Saddam Husayn at the third Islamic conference in Ta'if, when he asserted his wish that the Iranian delegation was present, so that the military problem between Iran and Iran could be ended amicably, and each country would do what is best for its citizens and their lives.

However, there was no response; Iran has never attended an Islamic conference. I am speaking plainly, and pointing out facts which are evident to all. There might be other issues which are not so evident, but the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not get itself involved in unworthy or lowly matters.

Should Iran or any other country think that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not able to defend itself, I warn any such country that thinks this that it is wrong.

And you, the military, are well aware of everything... If we look at the past, we can see how our military status was then and what it has become now. [passage omitted]

I will not say that there have not been mistakes, but I can say that although unintentional mistakes have occured, no work can be accomplished, continued, or advanced quickly without some mistakes. However, mistakes vary;

if they are intentional, they will be considered mistakes. Errors in application, however, may be corrected by better application. [passage omitted]

Almighty God can do without us but we cannot do without Him. Therefore, we shall follow His path, God willing, which is the path of dignity and pride, and this is the only thing which the Kingdom—the government, people, and the military—can be proud of.

As for becoming an aggressor state; we will not become that, and we will not allow anyone to attack an inch of our territories.

It has been said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has bought weapons from non-Western countries. I think that any wise person or country should know that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not tied down to anybody, nor has it any agreement with anyone which would commit it to anything.

Our ties with the rest of the world are based upon interest; there are no sentiments. And everyone knows that sentiments do not exist; there are common interests between countries. Common interests link countries together.

As is known, our country is developing in various ways. We have needs, both military and civilian. When we find what we need in friendly countries, if they supply it to us, they do so and we pay for it with our money; no one gives anything free of charge.

However, if there are problems with a specific country we will find other countries in the East or the West. At the same time, we buy weapons and not principles.

That is why your country should be as strong as possible. We might not be able to say that we are going to be the strongest power in the world, or even a middle-ranked power in the world, however we can say that we should have the necessary military means in all our armed sectors to stand up to any country that might commit aggression against this holy country.

But how should we purchase weapons? We are not going to hesitate to buy weapons from any country in the world, but the only condition is that the weapons should be the best of their kind.

You are all servicemen, and thereby in a position to understand military development. Whether we like it or not, every year there is a new kind of weapon: a new kind for this year and another for next year. Of course, we are not able to keep up with such a rate of development.

Moreover, there are weapons being developed every 5, 6, or 10 years, the best examples of which are aircraft, missiles, and other weapons that employ lasers—in general, all sophisticated weapons.

Thus, the problem has become one of finding the right number of personnel who understand and discern the sophistication of weapons. Even today's soldier has to have a high level of education, whereas the old weapons our forefathers knew required no more than courage, strength, and sternness to use. Well, we only needed swords and spears until guns were invented, but the gun was easier to use.

Nowadays, the soldier has to have an even higher level of education, competence, and training. The problem facing us now is how to find the necessary number of soldiers and noncommissioned officers.

As far as the latter are concerned, there are the necessary military academies for them. Some of the best news I have heard—and I have been close to this matter for a long time as I remember the days when we used to give all kind of incentives for the youth to join the military academies—is that at the end and the beginning of every scholastic year at the academies, more and more students—more than we expect—try to join the military academies.

This indicates the Saudi citizens' concern and his search for better. The question now is about satisfying existing needs, which require a great number of highly developed soldiers. There is no undeveloped soldier; he who cannot read or write and does not understand is of no use.

I have said on numerous occasions that youth who have completed their studies at secondary schools or equivalent institutes, or who have completed university studies should apply to the Army, the National Guard, the public security organs, or at any military facility.

They can serve for 1 and ½ or 2 years, or for any period decided militarily—as you understand these things better than I do—and then can leave for civilian studies or civilian work. The balance of those who complete their studies at these institutes and secondary schools, and at the universities will remain in the tens of thousands, and I do not think that any young son of ours would not welcome this.

Seeking to know the truth and the various opinions, I have always been interested in asking the fathers, as I have found the response positive and have found the desire with youth in all parts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We know that the child of 4 or 5 joins the nursery. At 6, he joins the elementary school, and then the intermediate and secondary schools.

If the student does not leave the confines of the city or village in which he studied, then he will be absolutely unaware of anything which differs from the practical sphere. [sentence as received] [passage omitted]

Here is something you might agree with me on. Soldiers are different now from what they used to be. In order to be of use, they must have a high scientific level of knowledge.

I have previously called on our youth—and I repeat this call—that they should automatically be in the forefront of those who come forth.

To be sure, they are now applying to military academies. However, it is not only the military academies that are in need. We also need the kind of soldier who is able to use a certain type of weapon. Thus, you need both officers and soldiers. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia's progress is indeed a miracle! How did all this come about? It is because the state did everything at once. It did not spare anything. It had the financial resources when its production of petroleum was about 10 million barrels.

Petroleum had various prices: light crude was $28 per barrel and heavy crude $26 ber barrel. There was also a reserve which enabled us to reach the levels which we have now reached, whether in housing, water, industrial development, agricultural development, or in the universities.

However, for the last 2 years the oil situation has taken an unnatural turn. We do not know why. Nor do we know why 4 or 5 days ago prices began to rise by between 45 to 40 to 15 cents. [sentence as received]

With much regret, quotas of some OPEC member countries have been fixed as well as the OPEC oil production ceiling. Every country has a fixed quota. Our production was dropped from 10 million barrels to 4,350,000 in order to safeguard OPEC.

It is very wrong for any OPEC country to sell oil cheaper than the price fixed for its oil. This has been reported in the papers. You can hide anything except oil; you cannot hide oil in your pocket. You sell it to companies.

The latter say: I bought it for $16. However, the price should be $18; so you cannot hide this. The world needs oil. The rise of oil prices, which we are witnessing now, has made people think that it is better to stick to the quotas and to the price. [passage omitted]

They were lying to themselves; they said that demonstrations took place in holy Mecca on 20 July 1988. They also said that demonstrations took place in front of the Ka'bah on 22 July.

They lied about people who were present in Mecca and lied to international news agencies; the latter did not, however, believe them. I think those lies were for domestic consumption. They wanted to show themselves off in one way or another in front of their people. Well, this should be none of our concern. [passage omitted]

Fahd Receives Turkish Prime Minister 26 Jul

LD2607164288 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1455 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Mina, 26 Jul (SPA)—This afternoon the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud received Turkish Prime Minister His Excellency Tirgut Ozal in the royal palace in Mina.

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Oil Minister Al-Jalabi

PM2207115588 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Jul 88 p42

[Interview with Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi by Diya' Hasan; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: In view of the new production ceiling set by OPEC at the recent Vienna meeting, do you believe that the decisions made will bring about stability in the world market in terms of oil prices?

Al-Jalabi: The decision made by OPEC's recent ministerial conference to maintain the present production ceiling of the 12 states signatory to the production agreement, namely 15.06 million barrels a day, for the remaining 6 months of 1988—despite signs that there will be more demand for OPEC oil during the mentioned period—was a positive step toward reaching stability in the oil market and maintaining present prices, especially if the signatory states commit themselves to the production quotas set. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is Iraq's position regarding OPEC's recent decisions, and does the ceiling set for Iraq sound fair, matching its oil reserves and the circumstances of the war?

Al-Jalabi: The decision by the recent ministerial conference to continue working under the previous production agreement until the end of the year allows Iraq to remain outside the agreement.

The agreement itself does not set a production quota [for Iraq] less than that for Iran. Iraq's demands stem not only from technical and economic factors concerning fixing quotas, the level of reserves, and output, or financial needs, but from our belief that OPEC must adopt a neutral stand and provide a suitable atmosphere for achieving a peaceful settlement to the Iraq-Iran conflict, namely by setting equal production quotas for both countries, especially now that Iran is exploiting its oil revenues to prolong its aggressive war against our struggling country. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Is there anything new regarding oil discoveries in Iraq?

Al-Jalabi: Iraq is continuing to explore for oil and evaluate oilfields. This is in order to accurately determine the volume of present and potential oil reserves.

In addition to our present oil reserves, estimated at nearly 100 billion barrels, there are additional reserves of about 50 billion barrels, making Iraq one of the biggest countries in the world in terms of oil reserves. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What are the results of your recent talks in Ankara? And is there any possibility of extending a third new crude oil pipeline across Turkish territory?

Al-Jalabi: Our recent visit was made within the framework of regular meetings of the Iraqi-Turkish committee for joint cooperation. At these meetings we follow up the cooperation aspects agreed upon at previous sessions in order to iron out problems and discuss ways of expanding cooperation in various fields.

At the recent meeting the Turkish side raised the idea of installing a third crude oil pipeline. We brought a study of this with us but so far no measures have been taken in this regard. We did not broach the subject of extending a similar pipeline for gas.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Iraqi pipeline to Al-'Aqabah via Jordan?

Al-Jalabi: There is nothing new in this regard. We are currently concentrating on completing the second phase of the Iraqi pipeline via Saudi Arabia, whose completion is scheduled for September 1989.

Comments on Export Projects

JN2307111188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi has said that a tangible development has occurred in providing large export outlets for Iraqi oil during the past years of the war.

In a statement to AL-QADISIYAH today, the Iraqi minister said this restored to Iraq a good part of its existing potential before the criminal Iranian aggression in September 1980.

'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi added that despite the Iranian enemy's desperate attempts to attack the Iraqi oil installations and the Syrian regime's ban on the passage of Iraqi oil to the Mediterranean, Iraq has completed and operated many export projects.

The Iraqi oil minister pointed out that during the past few years the project to expand the Iraqi-Turkish line was completed and placed into operation so that its export capacity reached 1 million barrels per day.

The oil minister said that the operation also began on the second project to expand the same line so that the new export capacity will reach 1.5 million barrels per day.

The contract to implement the project was signed in January 1985. Through this line, Iraqi oil will be carried to the Turkish loading port in Jahan. [name as received]

The Iraqi oil minister said that the Iraqi pipeline project across Saudi territory is another export project accomplished during in recent years. He added that the work at this project began in October 1984 and was completed in 11 months. This period is considered a record time for such projects. The first shipment of oil was loaded on a tanker at the Saudi loading port.

The oil minister added that during the second stage of the project, another pipeline will be extended and a loading port on the Red Sea and a reservoir for crude oil will be built so that the capacity of the present and new stages will become 1.6 million barrels per day.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,275

JN2607165888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,275 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The results of the combat activities carried out by our valiant troops last night and today were as follows:

1. Pursuant to the Armed Forces General Command Communique No 3,273 which was issued yesterday and in which the General Command announced our plan to withdraw from the Iranian cities which were occupied by our valiant forces in the WA Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah IV operations, our forces will withdraw from the cities of Gilan-e Gharb and Salehabad before 1200 [0800 GMT] today.

2. Our planes carried out 229 combat missions against the enemy troops and its troop concentration points, inflicting further losses on the enemy. Furthermore, they dealt accurate and effective blows to the plane runways in the two Air Force bases of Sharukhi and (Wahdati).

Besides, they also dealt other blows to the heliports near Ilam, at the camps of Saqqez and Sanandaj, and also to another heliport near Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] where 6 helicopter gunships were hit.

Moreover, our planes attacked two radar stations, the first one near the Sharukhi Air Force base, and the second one near the Ahvaz region. Other hits were dealt to two enemy camps and also to two high echelon headquarters. Having accomplished their tasks, our hawks returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. Our daring helicopter gunships flew 124 combat sorties today. They destroyed several scoundrel troop concentrations, positions, and equipment. Then, they returned safely to base, God be praised.

4. One vehicle loaded with ammunition was set on fire and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Also, one vehicle carrying personnel was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. One enemy tank and two large vehicles were destroyed and a number of scoundrels were killed in the V Army Corps northern sector. Furthermore, five enemy personnel were killed and two infantry positions and one weapon emplacement were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 July 1988

INLA Seizes Garrison

JN2607144988 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] In a subsequent communique issued today, the Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq announced that the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] forces have seized the biggest and most important Khomeyni guards garrison which is called [name indistinct].

The organization added that its forces also managed to destroy the 27th Khomeyni Guards Division which was stationed on the Eslamabad-Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] road.

In its communique which was aired by Mojahed radio, the organization went on the say that the INLA forces are continuing their advance toward Kermanshah which is situated 500 km west of Tehran.

Troops Withdraw From Kulan

JN2607192488 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1907 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 26 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To honor the pledge that we made regarding the withdrawal from the Iranian cities which were occupied by our valiant forces in the Wa Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah IV operations, our Armed Forces completed their withdrawal from the hamlet of Kulan at 2000 [1600 GMT] today, Tuesday, 26 July 1988.

Iranian F-5 Downed

JN2707070688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—The Iraqi antiaircraft defenses have downed an Iranian F-5 plane in the III Army Corps sector.

In a statement to INA today, a military spokesman said that at 0818 [0418 GMT] today, an Iranian F-5 plane attempted to penetrate Iraq's international border in the III Army Corps sector.

Our antiaircraft men confronted and downed it. It was seen falling in flames in Iranian territory.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

West Bank Curfews Reported

TA2607163688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Excerpts] A makeshift charge exploded in Hebron today causing no casualties. Later, a female resident of Qiryat Arba' was slightly wounded by a stone in Hebron. 'Eran Ben-Porat, our correspondent in the territories, reports:

[Begin recording] On this third day of 'Id al-Adha, the curfews remain in force in Nabulus and environs, in Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur, and in Qabatiyah, affecting a population of over 150,000 in Judaea and Samaria. The number does not include Qalqilyah and neighboring 'Azzun, where the curfew is only imposed at night.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 26 July reports that "the curfew in Nabulus and its refugee camps is being lifted at this time. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Central Command Commander 'Amram Mitzna' consented to the request of local residents to allow them to celebrate the last 'Id al-Adha day without a curfew. The commander decided to lift the curfew as a gesture on 'Id al-Adha. The curfews in Bayt Sahur and Bayt Jala near Bethlehem were lifted this morning."]

Quiet prevailed today in most parts of Judaea and Samaria, with the commerce remaining paralyzed due to 'Id al-Adha.

As was said, two incidents occurred in Hebron today. An explosion was heard in Hebron in the morning. [passage omitted] Jewish residents said that they take a very grave view of the incident. It reflects a deterioration in the security situation, and it is not inconceivable that we will react on our own. One group of locals has already gathered to discuss possible reaction. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Girl Killed in Gaza

TA2607202088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Violent riots took place tonight in the Gaza Strip's Al-Shati' refugee camp. According to Arab sources, a 13-year-old girl was killed and four residents were wounded by IDF gunfire. The IDF is investigating the allegations.

An ITIM correspondent reports that after the riots broke out, an IDF unit entered the camp and was attacked from short range by a crowd hurling bricks. To extricate themselves, the soldiers opened fire at the assailants, possibly killing the girl. Her body was transferred to Al-Shifa' hospital in Gaza, but later the family snatched the body, making it difficult to ascertain the cause of death.

The IDF believes, however, that the girl died of natural causes rather than from the soldiers' gunfire. The army is looking into this matter, as well as the allegation that four camp residents were wounded by IDF gunfire. Tonight the four were brought to Al-Shifa' hospital, where they received treatment.

Gaza Strip 'Quiet'

TA2707065888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] A curfew was clamped on the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip this morning following serious disturbances last night which led to the death of a 13-year-old girl and the wounding of two local youths. Soldiers tried to restore order after being endangered by flying bricks and stones. The disturbances continued during the girl's funeral last night, but security forces managed to restore order without using gunfire. There were no further casualties.

The curfew on the Jabalyah refugee camp continues. The rest of the Gaza Strip is quiet on the last day of 'Id al-Adha. Very few left for work in Israel, but shops are much busier and there is heavy traffic on the main streets of the Gaza Strip.

'Religious-Nationalistic' Motives Prompt Arson

TA2607165388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The police have apprehended three Yafo residents suspected of setting city buildings on fire, apparently with nationalistic and religious motives. Our correspondent Zohar Melamed has the details:

[Begin recording] The Tel Aviv magistrate today permitted the publication of the details of arson cases in Yafo. The three suspects, Yafo inhabitants Mahmud Abu Din, Sayf 'Abdul, and a 14-year-old minor, are charged with setting fire to the Electrostar fan factory, several carpenter shops, and vehicles. The total damage of these fires exceeds 2 million shekels. The background is religious-nationalistic. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin Says Half of 'Uprising' Leadership in Jail

TA2607083088 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jul pp A1, 2

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Excerpt] Half of the leadership of the uprising is in jail and is therefore incapable of agitation, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday.

Addressing a party rally in Ashqelon, the minister said the results are being felt in the territories. He added that half of the detainees are being held under administrative detention orders. [passage omitted]

Shamir Meets With Soviet Religious Leader

TA2607111988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he hopes for an improvement in relations between Israel and the USSR in the near future. Prime Minister Shamir received one of the leaders of the Russian Patriarchate in Moscow. He said the religious establishment is an important element in strengthening world peace. He also expressed the hope that the Soviet authorities will improve their attitude toward the Jews.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the church leader said that the church is active in trying to improve the atmosphere between the two countries. The religious leader, who heads the Foreign Church Relations Department of the Russian Patriarchate, came to Israel to celebrate the Russian church's 1,000th anniversary.

'Jordanian Option' Called 'Geopolitical Fact'

TA2007140288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the Jordanian option is a geopolitical fact in the area, and that under no circumstances whatsoever would he agree to the annexation of 1.5 million Arabs to the State of Israel.

Replying to a motion to the agenda submitted by Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau of the Likud, Minister Peres categorically rejected the notion of a transfer. He said: We will not throw them into the desert, nor will they throw us into the sea.

Our Knesset correspondent points out that the vice prime minister denounced the trip Minister Moshe Arens made at one time to the United States to persuade Secretary Shultz that the international conference and the peace process are, so to speak, dangerous.

Outgoing Ambassador Discusses Peace With Egypt

TA2307112588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Former Israeli ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason says he believes the strategic peace between the two countries is stable and strong, but the day-to-day peace is in trouble and needs to be developed. Sason has just concluded his tour of duty as Israel's second ambassador to Cairo.

The ambassador said that Egypt often finds itself in difficult situations as an Arab country, such as during the war in Lebanon and the events in the territories. Sason added that peace between the countries is still in its infancy, and that both countries have to take each other's basic position more into account in their dealings.

Egypt's Basyuni Complains About Fences in Tabah

TA2507182988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, complained to Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, about the setting up of fences in the Tabah area by the Antiquities Department.

The Foreign Ministry this morning ordered the Antiquities Department to dismantle the fences. Avraham Tamir told our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that putting up the fences was a stupid move.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 25 Jul adds: "The Antiquities Department said the fences and markers are part of their regular activities in the entire southern area to protect tourist sites in Israel and Israeli-held territories. Reserve Major General Amir Driori, head of the Antiquities Department, said that there were only three or four markers and the work was done in coordination with the Israeli liaison officer. The Education and Culture Ministry has not yet decided whether to remove the markers and, if so, when."]

Egyptian 'Security Elements' Oppose New Envoy

TA2607084088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jul p 2

[Report by London correspondent Sha'ul Tzadqa]

[Text] Diplomatic sources in London and Cairo claim that no date has yet been fixed for Prof Shim'on Shamir's departure for Cairo because Egyptian security elements are opposed to his appointment as ambassador. Despite his academic record, knowledge of Arabic, and friends in Cairo, it seems that the Egyptian security forces are not impressed with his credentials and are trying to foil the appointment.

Their reservations arise from the period when he headed the Israel Cultural Center in Cairo and maintained contacts with "undesirable elements," such as students involved in activities opposed by the authorities.

'Large Sums of Money' Said Channeled to PLO

TA2507055988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Various international organizations connected to the PLO are transferring to the Arab sector in Israel large sums of money amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars each month. This was reported to our correspondent Yo'el Dar by the prime minister's Arab affairs adviser. For example, he was told of a Swiss-based fund which funnels some $2 million each year.

The money serves to finance public welfare activities, charity organizations, a research institute, and nationalistic circles in Israel. The adviser's office reported that several local Arab councils have received such funds, but

did not report this to the Interior Ministry. An assistant Arab affairs adviser to the prime minister told our correspondent that this is a dangerous phenomenon, as basically these funds are aimed at strengthening the PLO's influence in Israel.

The state attorney has been asked for advice on what can be done to stop those funds from entering Israel.

SLA's Lahd 'Ready' To Negotiate POW Exchange
TA2607142588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] is ready to enter negotiations with hostile elements in Lebanon regarding the release of captured SLA and IDF soldiers, in exchange for the release of prisoners. This was announced today by SLA Commander General Antoine Lahd during his meeting with IDF Radio correspondents in Marj 'Uyun.

[Lahd speaks in Arabic followed by correspondent's translation] If the other side consents to release prisoners, I am willing to launch a dialogue and discuss the issue of the release of SLA POW's held by hostile elements. I am even ready to discuss the release of Israeli soldiers captured by the hostile elements.

These remarks were made by Gen Antoine Lahd and reported by our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi.

Produce From Territories Destroyed as Unsanitary
TA2307113088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Jerusalem municipal supervisors this week destroyed tonnes of meat, fruit, and vegetables in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the destroyed meat included 1,500 kg of veal, lamb, and poultry, which had been butchered without sanitary supervision. They also destroyed 2,000 kg of fruit and vegetables which had been irrigated with sewage water, as well as hundreds of kilograms of olive oil packaged in rusty containers.

The Jerusalem Environment Department director, Yo'el Marinov, said that the drive was assisted by the police, who put up barriers and seized the produce transported from the territories in preparation for 'Id al-Adha.

Schools of Thought on 'Uprising' Reviewed
TA2607154788 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Jul 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "An End Must Be Put to Blind Radicalism"]

[Text] Every time that relative calm prevails in the occupied territories, some Israelis imagine that the uprising is fading. Only a few days after the onset of this illusion, however, the fever rises and events again reach the boiling point.

In Israel there is a "political school" that believes that time is working against the uprising. Anyone betting on the time factor, however, must have failed to learn the history of nations.

The second "school," represented by the Israeli radical rightwing, is convinced that the uprising will not end except by the use of force. This "school" believes that the soundness of its theory, that the Palestinians will not achieve anything by violence, must be proven to the Palestinians. On the basis of this conviction the adherents of this "school" resort to the use of pressure and force to, as they imagine, break the nerve center of the uprising.

There is yet another faction in Israel which comprises the "pragmatists." These "pragmatists," such as Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, want to first restore calm and then hold talks with the Palestinians and discuss their problems and sufferings. Rabin cautions, however, that the Palestinians should not interpret this as a concession by Israel. It is only an Israeli test of will. This despite the fact that it is naive to believe that calm will be restored to the occupied territories without finding a formula for ending the occupation.

Obviously, anyone who links negotiations with restoration of calm is looking for a pretext to coexist with the uprising's "fait accompli" until eternity, justifying this by making excuses to the effect that one cannot make concessions under pressure. These people forget that 21 years passed without pressure in which Israel failed to initiate any action.

The uprising has created an unprecedented opportunity in the history of the Palestinian cause to put forward a rational political program for ending the conflict. The Palestinians tried to exploit the uprising politically when they presented at the Algiers summit conference an Arab peace plan which was proclaimed to the entire world.

But the Israeli right wing, as well as the United States, want to first bring the Palestinians to their knees. If they had given a favorable response to the moderate Palestinian propositions, this would have created an incentive encouraging the Palestinian leadership to adopt more moderate positions, thus expanding the moderate Palestinian camp. The Israeli right wing, with the total support of the U.S., foiled every Palestinian tendency toward peace by refusing to give up the occupied territories in return for peace.

Thus we are still running around in circles. The present Israeli Government bears the responsibility for thwarting all efforts aimed at reaching a settlement acceptable to all the parties. Israeli radicals inside and outside the government bear the responsibility for rejecting compromise solutions and maintaining the region on the brink of a conflagration. Continued rigidity of positions will have grave consequences.

We are hopeful that the upcoming Israeli elections will prove that the Israeli people want peace despite the demagogy and fanaticism unleashed by the present election campaign. If the Israeli people really want peace, they should put an end to blind right-wing radicalism and return to reason and common sense.

Gulf Cease-Fire Said To Open 'New Horizons'

TA2007152088 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Jul 88 p A14

[Commentary by Shmu'el Segev: "To Build New Bridges to Tehran"]

[Text] The ink had not yet dried on Iran's announcement that it agrees to a cease-fire, before Israel indulged in a campaign of "self-intimidation" over the outcome of the Gulf war. Hearing and reading reactions and analyses in Israel over the last 2 days, one would have thought that Iraq had just been waiting for this moment in order to direct its army against Israel, and that Syria and Iraq had magically ironed out their differences and revived the "eastern front."

Of course, nothing is farther from the truth. For the time being, Iran has only agreed to a cease-fire and has not put away its historical hostility toward Iraq, which is highly unlikely to vanish in the near future. The cease-fire is the first clause in UN Security Council Resolution 598. Other clauses in the resolution are: a mutual withdrawal from occupied territories, the release of prisoners, and the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to determine who was the aggressor in order to demand its indemnification for the war damage.

This last clause will remain a cause of constant friction between Iraq and Iran. As long as the war is not officially over it is doubtful that President Saddam Husayn will be able—even if he so desires—to assign even a small portion of his army to a new belligerent adventure against Israel.

The Iran-Iraq war is ending exactly as the United States, Israel, and the pro-Western Arab countries wanted it to end: There is neither a winner, nor a loser. Despite 8 years of ruthless fighting, neither country achieved its objectives, and both come out of the war exhausted and licking their wounds. When Saddam Husayn launched the war in September 1980, he thought that with the advantage of surprise and military superiority, he would manage to undo the concessions he made to the Shah in 1975 regarding sailing rights in the Shatt al-'Arab and to bring down Khomeyni's regime. But nothing was achieved.

On the other hand, after repelling the Iraqi Army from its territory in May 1982 and after moving the battlefront to Iraqi territory, Iran made the end of the war conditional on the annihilation of the Ba'th regime in Baghdad and the removal of Saddam Husayn. This was not attained either. Hence, a stalemate was created during which only temporary, isolated advantages went to one side or the other, none of which could determine the outcome of the fighting. Despite Iraq's outstanding military achievements in the last 4 months, the stalemate persisted.

As long as the fighting is not over and the Iraqi-Iranian conflict has not been conclusively settled, it is too early to draw any conclusions regarding the outcome of the war, but several lessons are already evident. The main one is that, in retrospect, the war and the way it ended justified the policy conducted by the United States and Israel toward Iran.

The U.S.-Israeli drive to find channels to Khomeyni's potential heirs has been proven correct. The men who took part in the contacts with the United States through Israel are the same men who are currently holding the reins of power in Tehran. Undoubtedly, the most prominent of them is 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, who heads the "pragmatic" stream and who has the best chance of succeeding Khomeyni in the future.

The cease-fire in the Persian Gulf opens new horizons for Israel's diplomacy. A wise, open-minded, and imaginative leadership could now modestly try to open new bridges to Tehran without closing the door on a dialogue with Iraq and other Arab countries. In this context, I do not share the view of those who think that Israel should favor Iraq over Iran. No country in the world or in the region has committed itself to either. In fact, Israeli efforts toward Iran and possible initiatives vis-a-vis Iraq are not interrelated.

Israel had very close relations with the Shah's Iran, which did not impair its efforts to achieve peace with Egypt and pursue a dialogue with Jordan. If an opening were created tomorrow toward a dialogue with Iraq, Syria, or Saudi Arabia, possible relations with Iran would not close it. The reactions in Israel to the Gulf war focused on its dangers. The time has come for Israel to persevere in its pursuit of peace and seriously examine the new possibilities opening in the Persian Gulf.

Al-Rifa'i on 'Decisive Developments' in PLO Ties

JN2707113588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1042 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] London, 27 Jul (WAKH)—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i said there will be decisive developments in Jordanian-PLO relations and a restructuring of Jordan's domestic situation next week.

In an interview with the Saudi paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published in London today, Al-Rifa'i says the measures will be in line with the wishes of the PLO and Arab brothers and stem from Jordan's eagerness to project Palestinian identity and emphasize the unity of Palestinian representation through the PLO.

With regard to the reported dissolution of the Jordanian House of Representatives in which the West Bank is represented by one half of the House members, the Jordanian prime minister says he cannot confirm that measure because it is within the framework of higher decisions.

Al-Rifa'i asserts that the measures to be adopted do not conflict with the existing and continued Jordanian support for the Palestinian people's steadfastness.

In a statement to the same paper, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, says PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan in the first week of August after the PLO Central Council meetings scheduled to be held in Baghdad at the end of July. Salah Khalaf says the purpose of the visit is to draw up a future formula for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation that takes into account the latest developments in the region and the continuing popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

Abu Iyad says a PLO Executive Committee delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, will visit Jordan soon to prepare for 'Arafat's visit.

AL-RA'Y on Iran's Acceptance of Resolution 598

JN2007142088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jul 88 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Responsibilities Toward Peace"]

[Text] Iran's acceptance of the UN Security Council resolution calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war places a great responsibility on the the UN Security Council, the international community, and all who love justice and peace in the world. This responsibility lies in encouraging Iran to translate this aceptance into practice leading to the immediate and full implementation of the UN Security Council resolution.

Needless to say, this responsibility includes demonstrating self-restraint and avoiding everything that might resurrect tragedies. Likewise, this responsibility includes mentioning the broad and positive horizons that might come into existence by forging peace between the two Muslim neighbors.

As a matter of course, this does not mean that vigilance is to be abandoned. Nay, it means that the new Iranian stand should be dealt with in a manner that encourages Iran to adhere to it and that also gives Iran certainty that the peace with fraternal Iraq will be an honorable one. This is what has been reiterated by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in his speech a few days ago, and this is a wise policy that deserves all praise.

It must also be remembered that the harbingers of peace between the two neighboring Muslim states were met with concern on the part of Israel. And this is natural, as Israel has no interest in stopping the dissipation of Iraqi and Iranian potentials. Furthermore, Israeli interests will not be served if the Arab and Islamic capabilities acquire a new equilibrium and are strengthened to achieve strategic parity in the face of the Israeli arsenal of aggression.

Hence, we do not rule out the possibility that Israel might use all the means available to it to abort the harbingers of peace between Iraq and Iran, and this is what we must be alert to and what peace-loving forces must be wary of.

It is high time to see the Arabs and Muslims rally their potentials and capabilities to confront the Zionist danger, as it is the principal and common danger in the region and because it is the challenge that faces them. There is no doubt that many, many lessons of the past and present have led them to reach strong and irreversible convictions regarding this fact. And in light of this fact, the preparations for clearing the atmosphere between Iraq and Iran constitute a step that is no less important than accelerating the efforts to end the war between the two sides and closing the curtain on its tragedies and saddening memories.

The move to peace, which fraternal Iraq has been pursuing for a long time, requires abundant efficiency, which is no less important than the efficiency with which Iraq managed the war. We derive satisfaction and pride from the fact that Baghdad is aware of this reality and that it possesses the wisdom and farsightedness to enable it to display this efficiency. At any rate, the sacrifices offered and feats of heroism demonstrated by the valiant Iraqi Army remain a beacon and a basic factor that caused the harbingers of peace between the two neighboring Muslim states to appear.

CIA Accused of Responsibility for 'Every Crime'
PM2607140188 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
14 Jul 88 p 2

[Jubarah al-Barghuthi article: "The United States Is Behind Every Crime and Act of Terror"]

[Text] The CIA has adopted a line and a policy: It uses crime as a means to justify its objectives. The United States can hide its criminal tools but it will not be able to convince the entire world that its organs are not criminal or not stained with blood.

In view of the statements and information announced in Washington regarding the downing of the Iranian airliner, it has finally been proved that the CIA was behind the downing of the plane and that the fabricated information furnished to justify the murder of 300 passengers was in fact compiled for a reason—representing the essence of this criminal U.S. organ's task.

The CIA creates an event and then makes a move. For instance, it fabricated the mines incident in the Gulf to provide an excuse for Western military deployment in the region. It fabricated an excuse for shooting down the Iranian airliner so that the fire of the Gulf war would remain blazing—something that serves U.S. policy alone.

The entire world understood the truth and condemned the U.S. crime. So what was the CIA's response to contain world anger? The answer was clear in the killing of the innocent people aboard the Greek cruise ship. This incident clearly serves U.S.-Zionist strategy in the Mediterranean.

Greece is a country friendly to the Arabs, supporting their struggle and their causes, and this alarms the United States considerably. So the CIA was forced to fabricate the names of organizations allegedly carrying out bombings in Greece and killing Greek citizens.

The United States repudiates Greek policy in the NATO alliance. That is why we see it seeking to take revenge on that country, which is proud of its history and culture. The United States is alarmed by Greece's rejection of U.S. and British military deployment on the island of Cyprus.

We saw how the British Government was the only party in the world that considered the downing of the Iranian airliner a legitimate act and an act of self-defense.

Thus, all that happened to the Greek cruise ship was in fact organized by the CIA, regardless of the tools used in the implementation.

The CIA has a history in this field: It was behind the fascist coup in Greece; it was behind the murder of Cypriot leader Makarios; and it was also responsible for the killing of Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro, who was a political pivot in Italy.

All this proves that the United States has a hand in every crime, that the policy of terrorism in the world is the work of the CIA, and that U.S. propaganda is unable to convince the peoples of the U.S. secret organs' innocence of the crimes being committed everywhere in the world, beginning with the Philippines and ending with Chile and South Africa and even Sweden, where the international figure Olof Palme was assassinated.

AL-BA'TH Attacks U.S.-Israeli 'Muscle-Flexing'
PM2607135388 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
15 Jul 88 p2

[Na'im Tahir article: "New Military Provocation in Mediterranean"]

[Text] Once againt the United States is proving its line which is supportive of the Zionist aggressive policy. It is conducting joint military, naval, and air maneuvers with the enemy's forces in the Medditerranean sea, in a provocative step aimed at flexing muscles, as stated by the Soviet paper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

U.S.-Zionist muscle-flexing embodies a number of things the U.S. Administration is trying hard to achieve in order to extract itself and the Zionist entity from a number of crises hitting them internally and internationally.

After its ugly act, namely the downing of a civilian aircraft carrying innocent people over the Gulf, the U.S Administration is searching for a way out that would, if only partially, change its bad image, which is associated with murderous crimes and international violations. It is doing its best to divert attention from the presence in the Gulf of its military fleet, which is bristling with instuments of destruction, by conducting manuvers in the Mediterranean with the participation of a nuclear-powered U.S. aircarft carrier.

The Zionist entity, which has begun to stagger as a result of the internal war led by the victorious uprising, is trying hard to divert attention from what it is experiencing internally as well as from its practices against an unarmed people—practices that violate the most elementary human rights. It is trying to extricate itself from the international isolation, into which the continuing uprising has driven it.

It is doing this via muscle-flexing operations involving the destructive weapons it possesses, with full backing from U.S. military forces. Furthermore, U.S.-Zionist harmony, embodied in the form of military maneuvers today, comes after the signing of the new memorandum

of strategic cooperation between Washington and Tel Aviv. These maneuvers seem to be the first serious test for the memorandum referred to.

In addition, the aggressive and expansionist method maintained by the enemy's government seems to be the long-term objective of every Zionist military action or U.S.-Zionist military action. The danger here seems to be in this qualitative U.S. military participation, which once again proves the U.S. Administration's closeness to the enemy and its remoteness from the Arab nation, no matter how hard the Arabs try to get closer to it.

PLO Document Seen as Proof of 'Arafat 'Treason'

PM2607084588 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 17 Jul 88 p 8

[Dr Fa'iz al-Sa'igh article: "Fall Of Deviationist Approach"]

[Text] While the Zionist entity is trying, via the two alternate Zionist heads, to extinguish the fire of the uprising and prevent its expansion and continuity, the deviationist Palestinian right continues its attempts, via the head of deviation and his group, to contain the means of the national Palestinian struggle and prevent the continuation of struggle both inside and outside the occupied Arab territories.

Probably the coincidence between the bombing of the camps and the presentation of the new capitulation document is new and irrefutable evidence of the implication of the deviationist approach and how it is cheaply throwing itself at the enemy's feet.

The question now is: Has the deviationist right allowed those who try to whitewash and embellish the bad image of this black approach to play the same role; or is the announcement that the PLO Executive Committee, under the full control of 'Arafat and his group, has endorsed all the clauses and stipulations of the [Bassam Abu Sharif] document, enough to expose the role that had Palestinian public opinion fooled at one point—the role which some people played on the pretext of independent decisionmaking?

Those who once believed that Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, his signing of the Camp David agreements, and his betrayal of both national and pan-Arab causes had anything to do with independent decisionmaking were undoubtedly naive. Documents and successive events have proved that Al-Sadat had in fact sold himself as a traitor to his nation decades earlier.

The same applies to those who believe, even for one moment, that 'Arafat, who has not relaxed at all since the exposure of his pretexts, is exercising independent decisionmaking in his continuous treason. The documents and incidents which the foreign press, before the Arab press, exposed to both world and Arab public opinion prove that 'Arafat also sold himself as a traitor to the Arab central cause decades ago. And this is being exposed by the uprising of the kinfolk in the occupied homeland and will be exposed further in the future.

Do not the suspect moves being made by 'Arafat in coordination, cooperation, and collaboration with the two surrogate regimes of Camp David and Iraq to contain the uprising and limit its objectives—namely via the clauses of the Abu Sharif document, which means nothing but recognition of the enemy and gives him the deeds to both the land and the people—constitute high treason?

We are fully aware of the extent of the treason being maintained by the deviationist approach. We know precisely the dimensions of the vile role being played by 'Arafat, the professional player in a game whose objective is to contain and liquidate the Palestinian cause and isolate it from world attention.

We realize and understand this. Facts are exposing the deviationist approach and strengthening the approach of the national and pan-Arab struggle led and embodied by Syria. The same approach is embodied in the uprising of the occupied homeland today.

What concerns us today is that all the Arabs realize that the patriotic intuition of the masses can never be mistaken, and that the role of the Palestinian masses, who have repudiated 'Arafat's approach in the camps, represents the Arab masses' role aimed at eliminating deviation from the Arab ranks. When that happens we will provide the sweeping uprising with the means for success and elements of victory in the manner endorsed by the extraordinary Algiers summit.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses 'Armed Opposition Groups'

LD2707002088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Speech by President Najibullah to "members of the armed opposition groups visiting Kabul during 'Id al-Adha" at Storey Palace in Kabul on 26 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] I seek refuge in God from the accursed Satan. [Koranic verse]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God and prayers to His messenger and companion. [Koranic verse]

Dear compatriots, may God's peace and blessings be upon you. Once again, from the bottom of my heart I congratulate you on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. I hope you spent the auspicious 'Id days with your families, relatives, and friends in a happy, delightful, friendly, and prosperous atmosphere. [passage omitted]

Today, the population of Kabul is 1.5 million while 10 years ago it was only 500,000. You have walked in the city and have seen everything. Life is continuing peacefully in Kabul; workers are in the factories and peasants are on the land. Government institutions are operating normally and 334,396 pupils are studying in schools.

You may be aware that we have made a humanitarian decision concerning the free distribution of breakfast and uniforms to primary school students. This decision has received broad approval in the country. Every student has received the annual sum of 5,000 afghanis, as well as stationery and other school equipment free of charge. This summer 3,000 of our children will go to other countries for rest. [passage omitted]

Here in Kabul the historic Grand Assembly which approved the Constitution was convened. Our people called this constitution the constitution of peace, reconciliation, and democracy. Here in Kabul the Milli Shura has begun meeting.

However, the Sarandoy and Army posts in the streets and roads of the city, the war machinery at crossroads and in squares, the helicopters and jets in the sky—the sky of our country's capital—have all become characteristic of today's life too.

The Armed Forces are defending the tranquility and security of our citizens. In recent months alone the bombardment of Kabul has left dozens of homes destroyed, 163 people martyred, and 210 people injured. Who wants to destroy houses, paths, schools, mosques, and hospitals? Who wants to destroy the reconciliation? Who is raising their hands against their compatriots and their brothers? You be the judges. Do those who commit such actions have wisdom, a conscience, and honor? Can they be called Muslims and Afghans?

Kabul is capable of defending itself and Kabul will show this. No one, no rocket of any type, and no power can bring our beautiful Kabul to its knees. Let no one have any doubt in this regard.

How do we live? What are millions of Afghans thinking about today? What do they want? The Afghan people above all want peace and an end to the meaningless and savage war. In the past several years brothers have fired on brothers. The bullet fired by one Afghan penetrates the heart of another Afghan. Tens of thousands of innocent persons have been killed.

During these auspicious days when we are all celebrating the 'Id al-Adha, thousands of women, children, and the elderly are gathering in the martyrs cemetery. They are shedding tears for the memory of their martyred husbands, fathers, and sons.

Please go to the hill of martyrs and see their tears. Why have they been martyred? Who killed them? Who will reply to the orphaned children? There are many such graves in the city and their numbers are out of proportion (?in comparison) to the size of the country. How many cemeteries are there on the other side, that is, the side of the opposition?

I say to you: Every day at least 50 persons are killed on both sides. The only thing that our elders can do is to pray for us. Our children are unable to rebuild this country. The people who can rebuild this country are our youths. They must rebuild beloved Afghanistan, their beloved home. However, every day they are being sent to their graves. Who then can rebuild this country?

Who has decided to cause chaos in our country, to our youths, and our treasure—human treasure—and to destroy the country? We cannot find a family in Afghanistan which is untouched by the misery of the war. I ask you: Do you not have losses in your families? There must be such losses.

Billions of afghanis in losses have been imposed on our country's economy. An amount equal to what has been spent in the past 40 years for Afghanistan's economic growth has been lost due to the war. What irreparable moral losses are caused by the war? How many human beings were disabled?

The lives of how many people were ruined and the hearts of how many people became filled with hatred and revulsion? Moral values burned up in the fire of war. Seeking peace, hospitality, honesty, justice, sympathy, and love of family became secondary to (?ruthlessness), unkindness, distrust, and anger. These cannot exist in a good Islamic society; these cannot find a place in the hearts of individuals.

Who is responsible for the bloodshed and sacrifices? Who will reply to the 10 years of destruction of national wealth? Who will answer for the moral losses imposed on the national honors of Afghanistan, for the spiritual poverty of millions of our compatriots who unintentionally take the path of sin and atheism?

There can be only one reply: the one who imposed on us the undeclared criminal war and those who want to continue the war against the wishes of the Afghan people for peace.

The enemies of national authority relentlessly try to cause the failure of the national reconciliation policy we announced more than 1 and ½ years ago. [passage omitted]

Naturally, you are aware that the country's first Milli Shura session was convened. Afghanistan had never seen such freedom and democracy in its history.

The delegates spoke openly and freely, saying whatever they wanted. During the parliamentary debate, serious criticism also was directed toward the PDPA. This is testimony to the fact that the elected parliament is not merely a parliament of the PDPA. Many people in this parliament were shouting loudly and criticizing. All of you heard this.

The parliament called for an end to bloodshed and invited everyone to join in this task. This is the invitation of our nation, and every genuine Afghan must demonstrate his response to it.

Parliamentary debate has shown that all problems can be solved through peaceful means, without the use of weapons. Until recently, ministers were only appointed from among candidate members of the PDPA Central Committee, but today the Cabinet, including the nonparty prime minister, Esteemed Mr Hasan Sharq, consists of individuals belonging to different national, social, political, and class forces of Afghan society. The new government is a coalition government. Of 31 cabinet members, only 15 are PDPA members.

Conditions have been created for the development of the previously existing and newly established parties. The PDPA showed in practice that it is ready to share power and to apply the principles of Afghan democracy—i.e. the multiparty, coalition system—in life. What is a coalition? A coalition is the leading of the country, not by one party or one organization, but by a group of different organizations that have come together for a common aim. Today this aim is the cessation of war and the introduction of all-round peace.

What is a multiparty system? It is where, not one party, but many parties, operate in the country. Any party, the activities of which are not against the provisions of the Constitution, may work freely and publicly. Six parties now operate legally in the country.

More attention has been paid to the alleviation of the economic needs of various sections of society during the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. Unhindered conditions for the development of private enterpreneurs and national capitalists have been created. The mistakes that happened in the first stage of implementing the land reform process have been resolutely alleviated.

Important steps have been taken toward reaching an understanding with national businessmen and artisans. People's sovereignty started honest and direct negotiations with the armed opposition groups inside the country, and 150,000 returning refugees have been received with happiness and jubilation.

But the best fruit of the tree of national reconciliation is the Geneva agreements. The documents, signed by Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, showed the way toward the peaceful settlement of the armed dispute in Afghanistan. The people of our planet welcomed with great interest the objective chance that has come into existence to peacefully untangle the knots of tension.

With the signing of the Geneva agreements, counting the last days of tension and war in Afghanistan started. Everyone, both inside and outside the country, believed in this reality. And we reached agreement on all problems and hardships during complicated and dramatic negotiations. Brilliant lawyers and diplomats took part in preparing the final documents. All problems were solved. Understanding and agreement came to bear on all provisions.

The sides which signed at the foot of these agreements should have embarked on implementing them seriously and without deviation. But, here also we have faced serious obstacles in the way of a simple and obvious clearing of things.

Reactionary circles in Pakistan and the United States, which oppose the national reconciliation process in Afghanistan, embarked on the explicit violation of their international undertakings.

Now we have a mass of evidence revealing these violations. What can be said about a person who does not keep his pledges? Where is the honor and conscience of General Ziaul Haq who wants to justify his interfering policy through accusations about Afghanistan and the Soviet Union?

General Ziaul Haq is trying to show that Kabul and Moscow are to be blamed for violations of the Geneva agreements with a change in the timetable for withdrawal of the Soviet Union forces. The recent statement by General Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi is a mere lie.

Foreign journalists and the United Nations observers who are in Kabul and who travel to various parts of the country have proven this. Those words of General Ziaul Haq cannot but be interpreted as efforts to deceive world opinion and to intensify the situation around Afghanistan afresh.

We know why Pakistan's leadership is forced to lie and evade. The ruling circles of Pakistan and the United States are on the one hand obliged to implement the international agreements which are approved and supported by the progressive world circles, and on the other hand they support their militarist servant, that is, the leadership of the Alliance of Seven in Peshawar.

Why does the war continue? Why does division and hostility still exist among Afghans? In what is the real cause of sorrow and pain hidden? The answer to these questions should be looked for in Pakistan, with the leadership of the armed opposition.

Why do you not hear wise and rational words there? Because the leadership of the Alliance of Seven thinks of dictatorial power and the accumulation of wealth. But at what price? At the price of our blood and that of thousands of innocent and unfortunate people. Here in the country the tears of the orphans flow and the screams of widows reach the sky; homes are destroyed; misery has overwhelmed our people. They accumulate wealth there and they say they will continue the war. [passage omitted]

What does the opposition want? How many posts do they want in the government, the Milli Shura, the ministries and the Armed Forces—50, 100, 300? Let us take the highest number, 300 posts. It means that in the continuation of a war in which 14 million people suffer, only 300 will benefit. For this they continue the war. Why do these 300 people want to impose their will on our people? Why do these 300 people force you to fight and shed blood?

We formally declare that we are ready to give many more than 300 positions to the opposition. But enough of war; stop firing. Put an end to bombarding the cities and shedding the blood of innocent people. Why do we fight among ourselves? Because of the pretext that Islam is in danger in Afghanistan? [passage omitted]

Is there another excuse? That the Soviet Union forces have occupied Afghanistan? But pay close attention to this data: Right now in 19 out of 30 provinces in Afghanistan there are no Soviet forces. The Soviet forces are returning to their country, seriously, in accordance with the stipulated timetable.

About one-half of the limited Soviet contingents have withdrawn from Afghanistan. By 15 August, the first 3 months, 50 percent (?of the limited contingents will have left.) Make a mental note of this—there will only be forces in Herat, Kabul, Parvan, Baghlan, and Samangan. In 20 more days, they will have returned to their country from 25 provinces.

You must have heard that the opposition said that they would capture any province from which the limited Soviet units and contingents withdrew. They could not seize any of the provinces. They carried out their operations, but they could not seize them.

They launched operations in Vardak, Zabol, Qandahar, Bamian, Kapisa, and right now in Lowgar. But they could not capture any province. They said that they would declare their government in one of the provinces of Afghanistan as soon as the Soviet troops started to withdraw from Afghanistan. They could not declare their government in Afghanistan either. They announced it in Pakistan.

They said that they would capture Nangarhar on 2 June. Since then, 1 and ½ months have elapsed, and they have not captured Nangarhar. They said that they would capture the capitals of the large provinces, cities, and communication lines. They did not succeed in anything but raising the level of bloodshed, increasing the killing, and increasing sorrow and bereavement.

When there was no way left, they resorted to long-range rockets and blind firing—not with launchers, but by charging them and leaving them. It did not matter where the rockets landed, or which unfortunate person's home they hit. Innocent people getting up early in the morning, getting up to greet their 'Id with happiness were hit by rockets.

We said to our opponents: Come, we embrace you. They sent us rockets in return. Did they think that this would embarrass the people of Kabul or the people of our country?

Twenty-two thousand rockets were fired at Zabol—22,000. The other day we displayed a large pile of the scraps. Twenty-two thousand rockets were fired in only 1 day. Eventually, the people will judge that this is not Islam; that this is not jihad. It is brutality. It is killing human beings. This is sending a child to the grave before he even gets up from his warm bed.

All of us see that no one will remain alive. No one will remain alive, but everyone will become a martyr. But how will those who carry out these attacks answer? [passage omitted]

You tell me, if the Russians wanted to occupy our country, why should they return to their country? If they wanted to occupy our country, they should have sent more of their contingents and should have stayed in Afghanistan for a long time.

You tell me, if the Russians wanted to occupy our country, why did they stay in the burning deserts in posts and garrisons to ensure peace? No, if they had wanted to occupy our country, they would have lived in villas and palaces as the Britons did. If the Russians had wanted to occupy our country, would they have endured the attacks on themselves intended for the villages, cities, and roads? Would they have agreed to help develop our national economy, education, and public health?

Why do we fight? Because the Alliance of Seven does not want to talk to us and refuses to take part in the coalition government. Those who have an argument, those whose pursuit is right, those who have logic, do not need to be afraid of anyone. They come and sit at the negotiating table and defend their stand if it is right. [passage omitted]

God is with those who follow the righteous path and they need not fear anything. The opposition say that their path is the right one, so why do they not sit with us at the negotiating table?

The opposition claims that the majority of Afghans support them. However, we are the ones who have announced a cease-fire. They should participate in elections with us. If the majority of Afghans support them, they can send their representatives to the Grand Assembly, elect a president, obtain a majority in the Wolasi Jirgah, and elect a government.

Why is the war being fought? If they say that the Afghan people support them, then they should not resort to the barrel of a gun and should not murder our innocent people. You be the judges.

We are ready for negotiations; we are ready for elections; we are ready to convene a peace jirgah; we are ready to convene a Grand Assembly. If the people really support them and if the people are not repelled by them, then why is it not possible to say: Let us observe a cease-fire and hold elections.

Wherever they win votes, we will all respect them. They are, however, afraid of such a thing. They are apprehensive because they have done such things that the Afghan people will never vote for them.

These leaders want to see you, our people, deprived and poor as you were 50 or 100 years ago because a weak and ignorant person can be easily taken advantage of, imposed on, and oppressed. The most dangerous matter for reactionary forces is the people who think about their country, people who want to settle all their problems independently.

Are our efforts contrary to the sacred religion of Islam or contrary to the traditions of our forefathers when we say that we want wisdom, justice, fraternity, and brotherhood; when we say we oppose intentions to chain the Afghan people in oppression, tyranny, insult, and injustice, which are covered with [words indistinct] of an Islamic society?

You and I, the majority of those who are sitting here, are of the same age. What do you think we should leave to our children? How would they themselves answer this question: Why was my father fighting? Why did he shed his blood? We should act in such a way that our children will have clear answers to these questions. We are telling the people the truth.

I have told you the truth. To whatever extent there is truth, to whatever extent trust comes about, we want you to trust us. We extend the hand of friendship to you and through you to all our opponents. I believe that you will not forget the days you have spent in Kabul and also the words which were said in our meeting. Let peace come to our country, so help me God. [applause]

Soviet Military Attache Refutes Pakistani Charge

BK2707090688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0846 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] New Delhi, July 27 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has pulled 35,000 troops out of Afghanistan under a United Nations-sponsored accord, and the withdrawal is progressing on schedule, a Soviet official said here.

The statement Tuesday by Colonel Yuri V. Kornilov, assistant military attache at the Soviet Embassy in India, followed charges by Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq that the Soviet withdrawal that started May 15 had stopped.

Col Kornilov said General Ziaul Haq's charges Saturday that Moscow had halted the withdrawal and sent as many as 10,000 troops back into Afghanistan was "designed to mislead world opinion."

Even U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci has expressed satisfaction that the withdrawal was progressing as scheduled, Col Kornilov said.

He told Indian journalists here that Soviet troops have already left 19 of 30 Afghan provinces and that half the estimated 115,000 troops are to pull out of the country by August 15.

Under the Geneva accords signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan, with the United States and the Soviet Union as guarantors, half of all Soviet troops are to pull out by August 15 and the remainder by February 15, 1989.

Col Kornilov admitted however that the withdrawing troops were facing some difficulties, mainly attacks from Afghan insurgents and landmines planted along the withdrawal route from land-locked Afghanistan.

He cited one instance when a Soviet mechanized unit had to defuse 300 landmines in Badakhshan Province before pulling out.

Kabul Hands 58th Protest Note to UNGOMAP

LD2707082488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0428 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 26, BAKHTAR—58th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on three cases of gross violations of the second article of the first document of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan was handed over to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP, here today.

The notice has asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and inform the Republic of Afghanistan and the representative of the UN secretary general of its results.

India

Further on Police Strike, Violence in Gujarat

23 Arrested, 83 Dismissed

BK2607130488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] The Gujarat Government has arrested 23 policemen and dismissed another 83, since the police strike in the state began 3 days ago.

The chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhary, says all the four police employees unions will be derecognized as soon as legal proceedings are over. He was making a statement in the assembly on the situation arising out of the strike.

Mr Chaudhary said the government is thinking of setting up a separate authority on the lines of the ones existing in some states to deal with the problems of the police force.

The attendance of the police force was completely normal, barring some police stations in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and three districts of Kheda, Sabarkantha and Surendranagar.

Situation 'Returning to Normal'

BK2607154088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] In Gujarat, a large number of policemen today reported for duty in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Jamnagar. According to an official spokesman, the overall situation in the state is returning to normal.

However, some violent incidents have been reported from Ahmedabad and Vadodara. In Ahmedabad, CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] had to resort to firing to disperse an unruly mob. No one was injured in the incident. Two buses were set on fire in Vadodara.

The state chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhary, told newsmen in Gandhinagar that nonattendance has affected six to nine police stations. Earlier, making a statement in the assembly, the chief minister said that the government is thinking of setting up a separate authority on the lines of those in other states to deal with the problems of the police force.

Mr Chaudhary said that all the four police employees unions, suspended at present, will be derecognized as soon as the legal procedures are over. He said that the government has arrested 23 policemen and dismissed 83 in the last 3 days.

The former Gujarat chief minister, Mr Babu Bhai Patel, who headed the Janata government, has extended full support to the state government in curbing the police agitation.

Army Deployed After Violence

BK2707031488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] In Gujarat, the Army was called in at some areas of Vadodara late last night following continued violent incidents of arson and looting of shops. Earlier, the Army carried out flag marches in several disturbed areas of the city.

The Vadodara police commissioner told our Ahmedabad correspondent this morning that the paramilitary forces have been instructed to deal sternly with the hooligans. He said the paramilitary forces used tear gas shells and fired some rounds to disperse violent crowds at different places.

No one is reported to have been injured. No violent incident has been reported from the city after midnight last night, and the situation is now under control.

Meanwhile, the strike by policemen entered the 4th day today. The attendance has been affected in about 70 police stations in 5 districts. However, in Ahmedabad and elsewhere, a number of police personnel reported for duty yesterday.

'Shoot on Sight' Orders

BK2707090388 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] New Delhi, July 27 (AFP)—Indian Army soldiers have orders to shoot on sight rioting policemen in western Baroda City in a bid to crush a four-day-old police revolt, officials said Wednesday.

Hundreds of soldiers in battle fatigues and paramilitary troopers with shoot-on-sight orders fanned out in Gujarat state's Baroda City Tuesday at midnight, officials said by telephone from Ahmedabad City.

The police revolt first flared in Ahmedabad City Sunday, then spread to Baroda where looters, some of them plain-clothes policemen, torched two shops and looted houses late Tuesday, the officials said.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers and soldiers fired at mutinous policemen and their wives as the group hurled rocks at two police stations Tuesday in Ahmedabad, 30 kilometres from the state's capital Gandhinagar.

No one was injured in the shooting, the officials said.

Five police union leaders, including Gujarat State Constable Association former President Jairam Yadav, have been arrested under the tough National Security Act (NSA) since Tuesday midnight, a senior police officer said.

State administrators Monday re-arrested Police Inspector Ashok Bhatt, president of the region's main police union under the NSA, sparking protests from police unions in the adjacent state of Karnataka.

The anti-terrorist NSA provides for one year's detention without trial.

So far 86 policemen have been sacked and about 100 arrested for "gross indiscipline"—seven of them under the NSA, State Chief Minister Amarsinh Chaudhary told reporters.

State administrators said the police revolt was petering out in the affected towns and cities of Gujarat and policemen who deserted their posts were begining to come back.

Thirty-two inspectors, 430 sub-inspectors, 162 head constables and 425 constables reported back on duty Wednesday in Ahmedabad City, officials said and added an equal number of mutinious policemen have reportedly resumed work in the cities of Jamnagar, Rajkot and Patan.

The state chief minister warned Monday that he would sack striking policemen who did not report to their units by Tuesday.

"But the situation (revolt) in Baroda is still out of control," the officials said.

Army and paramilitary soldiers have disarmed most of the mutinous policemen, sealed Gujarat's 34 armouries and taken command of 24 police stations in Ahmedabad.

The police strike began Sunday to protest the arrest of several police union leaders held on charges of provoking a section of the police to revolt and the disbanding of police unions.

The revolt flared partly because of resentment among policemen who were told to go to the northern Punjab state with pre-World War II bolt-action rifles to fight Sikh separatists armed with the latest Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles.

'Normal Life' Affected by Strike in Manipur

BK2607164488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] In Manipur, normal life was affected today following a 24-hour bundh [strike] call. In Imphal, most of the shops and business establishments remained closed and private vehicles were off the road.

However, attendance in government offices was normal. The bundh has been called by the All Manipur State Panchayat Parishad [local bodies council] to press their demand for decentralization of power.

Opposition Walks Out of Parliament on Bofors

BK2707092788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] In both the houses of parliament the opposition staged a walkout on the Bofors issue. In the Lok Sabha, almost the entire opposition staged a walkout as the speaker disallowed an adjournment motion on the Bofors issue. Mr Bal Ram Jakhar said that the motion could not be allowed under the rules and he has already admitted a special discussion.

The special discussion listed in the name of Mr Narayan Choubey and Mrs Geeta Mukherjee, both CPI, relates to the recent publication of certain documents in a national daily in regard to the alleged payments of commission in connection with the Bofors contract.

The speaker pointed out that the opposition has every right to censure the government, but for this it must follow the rules of procedure. The opposition members, not satisfied with the speaker's ruling, walked out of the house.

In the Rajya Sabha, the chairman, Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, insisted on procedures when the opposition members sought to raise the privilege issue against the prime minister and other ministers. They alleged that the government has suppressed several facts. Almost the entire opposition walked out protesting against the chairman's ruling.

Satellite Reaches Geosynchronous Orbit

BK2507111588 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] India's multipurpose satellite, INSAT-1C, has reached geosynchronous orbit at a distance of 36,000 km above the earth. A team of scientists of the master control facility in Hassan, in the southern state of Karnataka, today successfully carried out the third apogee motor firing to put the satellite in orbit.

The inclination of the 1,190 kg satellite has also been brought down to just about 0.2 degrees as compared to 7 degrees at the time of its launching. The INSAT-1C is now at 102 degrees east longitude and drifting toward its final position at a rate of 2.5 degrees every day. Only small trimmings now will put the satellite in its design slot.

According to Indian Space Research Organization sources, the satellite is in perfect condition and the deployment of its second antenna and the solar panel will be completed in the next 2 or 3 days.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Links Freeing Assets With Hostages

LD2607231088 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Interview with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] They say Saddam supposedly wants to hold direct talks, considers it to be a sign of our sincerity, and similar such

remarks. Fortunately, these excuses have been taken away from him.

We repeatedly have announced that we want a strong, lasting, and encompassing peace more than he does. The imam clearly stated that our move is not a tactic to continue the war.

Our president, in a Friday sermon, said that we have no problem with direct talks. However, when the proper time comes in this case and a need is felt for direct talks, we will act. This excuse also has been taken away from them.

Today the world's view of us is a good one and I consider it one of the best achievements of this new move because, as you know, our revolution is an ideological one. It is cultural revolution far more than a political or even material one.

We have a need for world public opinion to understand our revolution. As a result of adverse propaganda in which we were portrayed as warmongers [words indistinct] and similar things.

Many would have believed such propaganda and had we been victorious and captured a land and even overthrown the Iraqi regime by military means, it still would have been detrimental to us if world public opinion, and particularly the opinion of Muslims, would have remained so.

However, now the world, and particularly Muslims, have come to understand that we were telling the truth from the start. Our nation had such faith in its legitimacy that it assumed that if it says "War, war until victory!" the world would understand the situation.

However, they realized that they had been mistaken. Now the situation is clearer and I consider the new move a strong political and cultural victory, that fortunately is also the harbinger of military victory. It is truly a proof of "Verily, we have granted thee a manifest victory." [Koranic verse]

[Correspondent] As you are aware, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri has issued an invitation to a march, asking all people of Islamic Iran to participate extensively in this march.

Please tell us what will be the effect of such a march in safeguarding the achievements of the Islamic Revolution.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This was an interesting idea from Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. As you know in the past, propaganda had it that a large portion of our nation was tired of the war.

Today propaganda has it that a large part of our nation that is supporting the war is unhappy about the acceptance of the resolution. These are forms of maneuvers. They think that the influence of the leadership and officials of the country has decreased or that the coordination between officials and the people has lessened.

I believe that if people are on the scene on the declared day in a glorious manner, demonstrate national unity, show that they follow the imam under any circumstances—which they do, that is to say, whether the imam invites them to continue the defense or invites them to accept the resolution and peace, these are equal in the eyes of people—they submit to the leader and follow him.

The leadership is an accepted issue for them and it is sweet for our people to submit to the leader. I believe a strong march will disappoint our enemies in their latest offensive, particularly because the situation at the fronts today is such that our warriors have given our people really glad tidings.

They are pursuing the enemy so well and dealing such blows against him at every passing moment in the southern, central, and northwestern fronts that every minute we receive reports of the destruction of enemy tanks and artillery and the enemy's retreat. The enemy has assumed a very shameful and vulnerable role.

The enemy has stated falsely that it is retreating unilaterally, even though it is still occupying extensive parts of our country. The enemy is holding cities such as Naft Shahr, Qasr-e Shirin, and others, as well as sensitive border heights.

Fortunately, however, the enemy is being forced into rapid retreat and this complete destruction of the enemy gives our people the opportunity to express their presence on the political scene.

[Correspondent] Reagan has said it is time to enter direct talks with Iran. Can you give our viewers some explanation on this?

[Rafsanjani] I have also heard this. We have stated earlier, and I have repeatedly stated my personal view, that following the victory of the revolution or even before our victory the United States assumed a hostile attitude toward the revolution.

So long as such an attitude exists there is no sense in thinking of discussions with the United States.

I have said that if they believe that the interests of the region and the world dictate that they should enter discussions with the Islamic Republic they must first of all end this hostile attitude and enable us to see some tangible signs of sincerity in them.

I made it clear once when I said that, for example, our assets are frozen in the United States—in the time of the previous regime we purchased a great deal of equipment, all paid for, and they have kept it for the past 10 years.

We need the equipment and they are holding us to ransom. Some of our assets are frozen in U.S. banks.

If Reagan means business and if they are truly sincere they can show that they are no longer hostile by freeing our assets.

Of course I have said that should they do this we will also use our influence in Lebanon to solve their problem of the hostages.

[Correspondent] If you have anything in the way of a conclusion for the martyr-nurturing Iranian nation, particularly for the hero-nurturing people of western Iran, would you please state it?

[Rafsanjani] I am deeply moved by the resistance and patience of the people in the war zones from northwest to southwest. Everywhere people in villages and towns are facing the dangers of war, they suffer from many problems particularly those who [words indistinct] and have seen a lot. I sincerely thank them for all this resistance and patience and praise them.

[Correspondent] Thank you for this interview.

[Rafsanjani] May you be successful.

IRNA Report

LD2707081488 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a televised interview Tuesday night described the situation at war fronts as very good and said Muslim forces of Iran enjoying high morale are chasing away the enemy.

Speaking to reporter of the Iranian radio and television at an operational headquarters Rafsanjani also said that politically Iran is now at a vantage point in the war with Iraq.

"Thus far we were defending ourselves while branded as the warmongering party and the one which does not want peace. No one heeded the motto of our nation which speaks for the people's resolve to fight on to victory without coveting other people's lands," he said.

However, the imam's acceptance of the UN Resolution 598 on the Iraq-Iran war was a breakthough which unmasked Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn. It showed to the world that Saddam has been lying all along, said Rafsanjani.

In Iraq's peace claims he said Baghdad continues its aggressions and Iraqi troops are in the Iranian border towns.

On recent Iraqi attacks on Iranian border cities he said "the Iraqi regime by nature is aggressive and will launch aggression any time it finds an appropriate place and feels powerful. This was the reason it started the war against Iran."

Elaborating more he said Saddam thought in vain that Iran's acceptance of the resolution may create listlessness among Iranian forces. The Iraqi ruler then took advantage to show off his power, planning to occupy some part of Iranian territory to have a better bargaining position in peace talks.

On collaboration of Iranian counterrevolutionaries with Saddam he said Iranians are on the alert and know well that they must back the fronts. "If we are stronger at fronts we will also be stronger in negotiations for ending the war and could attain our rights. Otherwise the enemy will try to deny our rights," he said.

One reason why Iraq does not comply with the Security Council resolution is that it intends to omit that part of the resolution which calls for the formation of a committee to identify the aggressor.

He stressed that the Iranian nation should continue the war to regain their ligitimate rights.

On assurance for lasting peace in the region he said such an assurance comes from the power of the nation, and added that as long as Iran is powerful the Iraqi regime will not try to obstruct peace, but he said if Iraq finds Iran in a weak position (politically and militarily) then as it has been proven in the past, Iran can form an undefeatable military power.

Rafsanjani reiterated that the imam's recommendation for accepting the UN Resolution 598 had neutralized the universal propaganda campaign against Iran which he said throughout the imposed war had misportrayed the stance of the Islamic government in relation with the war.

Rafsanjani touching on the latest Iraqi claims such as its interest in a lasting peace and direct talks with Iranian officials, said in this move, too, Saddam was disarmed.

He added Iran has repeatedly stressed that it is after a strong and lasting peace.

The imam, he said, has emphasised that the Iranian move is not a tactical one and President 'Ali Khamene'i has said that Iran may also hold direct talks if deemed appropriate.

He described the Iranian initiative as a "major political and cultural victory which fortunately will be followed by a military victory."

As for the proposal by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri calling for a nationwide rally in allegiance with the imam next week, he said it was a good idea to thwart poisonous propaganda of Iran's enemies who claim the Iranians are fed up with the war and that those who are for continuation of the war are displeased with Iran's acceptance of the Resolution 598.

The rally will prove to the world that the whole of the Iranian nation is behind the imam and supports all his decisions, Rafsanjani said. It will once again disappoint the enemies of the Iranian revolution, he added.

He refuted Iraqi claims that it is pulling out of Iranian cities voluntarily. This, he said, aims at covering up Iranian blows inflicted on Iraqi forces forcing them to retreat from the Iranian cities.

Iraq is making claims of withdrawing from Iranian territories while Iranian cities such as Qasr-e Shirin, Naft Shahr, and border heights are still under its occupation, he added.

As for direct talks with Ronald Reagan he said Reagan had repeatedly admitted that both before and after the 1979 Islamic revolution the U.S. had been hostile to Iran.

"As long as such hostile attitude exists negotiations with the U.S. does not make sense," he said.

He cited the example of the U.S. freezing of and its refusal to deliver the items purchased and paid for during the Shah's rule in Iran and observed that the U.S. still means to bully Iran into paying undue tributes to it.

"If Reagan were sincere he ...would release the Iranian assets. I have said that once he does so then we will use our leverage in Lebanon and help solve the issue of hostages," he added.

Envoy Cited on 'Main Reason' for Cease-Fire

LD2607110388 Hamburg DPA in German 1030 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—The main reason for Iran agreeing to a cease-fire in the Gulf war was the "unscrupulous use of chemical weapons" by Iraq, Iranian special envoy Sadeq Tabataba'i, who is regarded as an important Iranian contact with the West, has said in an interview with the Hamburg STERN magazine.

"We did not plan to counter the massive use of chemicals with anything similar," said the diplomat, who is also a representative of the Supreme Defense Council.

Therefore his government decided "to accept the worst to avoid even worse happening."

"It may be that the country is unhappy because of this," the 44-year-old said. However, the people's solidarity with Ayatollah Khomeyni could "not be affected by such events."

"Eventually we had to fight against everybody," Tabataba'i continued. "Against the United States, against the Soviet Union, against nearly all the Gulf states who have supported Iraq financially, militarily, and with intelligence and propaganda. Indeed, this fills us with a certain amount of pride: Despite everything, we have asserted ourselves."

An edited version of the interview, to be published in Thursday's edition, was prereleased to DPA.

Government 'Might Consider' Direct Talks With Iraq

AU2607180188 Paris AFP in English 1744 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Paris, July 26 (AFP)—Iran might "consider" face-to-face talks with Iraq if U.N. Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar deems it necessary, Iran's ambassador to France, Ali Ahani, said here Tuesday.

Mr. Ahani was speaking at his first press conference since his arrival in Paris, following the resumption of ties between Iran and France in mid-June, and as Mr. Perez de Cuellar prepared to hold separate talks in New York with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart, Tarik 'Aziz.

These talks would follow Iran's acceptance last week of Security Council Resolution 598 for a cease-fire in the Gulf war, one year after the 15-member body passed it.

Iraq, which had agreed to the terms of the resolution when it was first issued, last week demanded face-to-face talks with Iran on ways of securing a comprehensive peace in their eight-year conflict.

Tehran has so far refused to meet that request.

"If the secretary general of the United Nations...believes that such confrontations are necessary, we could consider studying the problem," Mr. Ahani told reporters in Paris.

He added that efforts by Mr. Perez de Cuellar and "Iraq's attitude" would dictate the time needed by all parties concerned to reach a cease-fire in the Gulf war.

But he also denounced Iraq's "aggression and its crimes" perpetrated on the battlefront after Iran's acceptance of the U.N. resolution, including "their use of chemical weapons on a large scale over the past few days against the civilian population."

Khamene'i Addresses Troops at 'War Theater'
LD2607161588 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Operational theaters, July 26, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today said the Islamic revolution has once again got an opportunity to display its great ability of mobilizing all its potential and manpower for the country's war effort.

The president, addressing a group of Muslim combatants at a war theater, lauded Iran's Muslim people for their preparedness to rush to the war fronts whenever they feel their revolution, Islamic homeland and dignity is in danger.

Khamene'i, who also chairs the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), stressed "our aim is to deal a severe blow on both Saddam (Husayn) and global arrogance" and make them feel the seriousness of the Islamic revolution.

The SDC head said the Iraqi Ba'thist regime by invading Iranian territory has once again committeed a blunder. Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598, he said, was for the sake of Islam and the Islamic revolution, but the enemy has misinterpreted it as a sign of weakness.

The Ba'thist enemy has again demonstrated its stupidity and instead of seizing this opportunity to save itself, it mistook Iran's acceptance as inability to confront enemy troops on the battlefields.

It is a blunder for global arrogance to think the Islamic Republic is in a weak position or to imagine that Saddam could force the Islamic revolution to turn away from its Islamic principles, the president concluded.

Egyptian Daily Urges Renewed Ties With Arab World
LD2407055088 Tehran IRNA in English 0532 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Athens, July 24, IRNA—A report published in the Egyptian national daily AL-AHRAM on the 'Future of Arab-Iranian Relations' says Iran's acceptance of a cease-fire with Iraq heralds a new phase in ties between Iran and the Arab world and has wide ranging impact on the whole of the Middle East.

"Like the start of the war meant a deep change for the people of the region, so the end of it will have wide ranging effects on the people and alliances in the region," the report prepared by the centre of political and strategic studies of AL-AHRAM Friday said.

The report suggests to the Arabs, particularly to Iraq, to seize the opportunity to rebuild relations with Iran before other nations, outside the region, attempt to form the relations according to their own interests.

It said that the common religion and culture between the peoples of Iran and the Arab world and the common geographical position should be a cause for cooperation and to rebuild a united force against the common enemy of the two countries.

Islamic countries should be called as observers for the implementation of the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, which would promote the religious and cultural relations between the two Muslim peoples, the report proposed.

Among other things the report suggests that future relations between Iran and the Arab world should be built on cooperation and not on claims of victories, and dialogue should concentrate on the future, not on the past.

'Informed Military Source' on Iraqi Intentions
LD2607215688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] In an interview with our correspondent, an informed military source discussed the intentions behind the latest aggression by the Zionist enemy against the soil of our Islamic homeland.

He mentioned that the war-mongering Iraqi regime, following the Islamic Republic of Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, showed through its resumption of aggression that it does not adhere to any convention or agreement and that it's warmongering nature cannot co-exist with peace.

He added: The war-mongering Iraqi regime was faced with the heroic resistence of the zealous people and the infidel-fighting warriors in its renewed aggressions against our Islamic and revolutionary homeland in the southern front and in Khuzestan. It was thus forced to flee the region.

Currently, it is attempting to establish a foothold in our country in order to force our country into offering concessions. The mercenaries of the Zionist Iraqi regime, who were faced with unprecedented popular resistance in their Monday night aggression in the western region, resorted to a new trick.

Using mercenary and counterrevolutionary elements, it tried to weaken the popular unity in resistance and heroic defense, thus preparing the ground for further aggressions by the Ba'thist army.

The Army of the aggressor Iraqi regime, while using the most advanced beastly tactics, captured Eslamabad-e Gharb and used the mercenary counterrevolutionaries to infiltrate the population and martyr the heroic women and men of the city.

Attack To Regain Eslamabad Foiled by INLA

JN2607185788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—The Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] has firmly confronted Iranian forces which launched an attack in a bid to regain the city of Eslamabad today.

Mojahed Radio, mouthpiece of the Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq said "the INLA forces have destroyed all attacking Iranian forces."

The radio mocked the allegations propagated by the Khomeyni regime to the effect that this regime regained the city of Eslamabad and said "our operations were so powerful that the Khomeyni regime was forced to withdraw its forces from various areas and to cancel many of its radio programs. This regime was also forced to interrupt these programs to announce a state of emergency in the apparatuses of its organs. Furthermore, it cut communications with other cities."

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Mojahedin Repel Attack

LD2407080488 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—The attempt of a commando brigade of Iraq's Sixth Corps to infiltrate positions of Iraqi Muslim mojahedin of Badr forces in Hur al Hdoweizeh [placename as received] during the past two days was repelled.

A report by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) to which Badr corps is affiliated in a statement issued here Sunday [24 July] said that the Iraqi forces suffered heavy losses and damage.

Tens of Iraqis including a number of officers and NCOs were killed and some others were captured, it added.

The mojahedin also set ablaze 40 Iraqi boats and seized ten intact.

The Iraqi mojahedin urged Iraqi youth to rush to battlefields and put an end to the fascist rule of the Baghdad regime.

General 'Severely Wounded'

LD2507094688 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Ahvaz, July 25, IRNA—Lt. General Ayyad Khalifa al-Rawi, commander of Iraq's Presidential Guard was severely wounded in Iran's Sunday [24 July] push to liberate part of Pol-e Zahab town.

An Iraqi POW captured in the recent fighting said the senior enemy commander was severely wounded in the head and had probably died hours later.

Al-Rawi, 45, has received 27 medals of 'courage' and one 'Qaddisiyah sword' from Saddam Husayn and is one of the officers very close to the ruling clique in Baghdad.

He was appointed to the post after Lt. General Kamil Saachit [name as received] was dismissed last year following heavy defeats of the Iraqi Army.

Members of the Presidential Guard are believed to be very loyal to the Iraqi ruler and are mostly from Takrit tribe.

Iraqi Planes Hit Student Bus

LD2607071988 Tehran IRNA in English 0717 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Ilam, Kurdestan Prov., July 26 IRNA—One of a convoy of three minibuses carrying outstanding students of Ilam province to Ramsar, a resort city at the Caspian Sea, for a culture and arts festival, was hit by Iraqi planes near Ilam Monday injuring the students. The two other mini-buses returned to Ilam unhurt.

The Iraqi Air Force has repeatedly bombed housing and non-military targets since the start of the new phase of Iraq's belligerence last week.

Communique on Eslamabad Operation

LD2607184588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Dear listeners, the General Command Headquarters issued the following communique only moments ago:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Oh zealous and combatant Islamic ummah! Oh proud Iranian nation!

The power of the faith of you God-seeking people which has assumed a holy aspect in the capable arms of the self-sacrificing guards, devoted armed forces personnel, brave mobilization forces, committee guards, and the zealous tribes of the western region—those immense reserves of the Islamic revolution—is going to inflict another calamity on the aggressor Iraqi Army and the black-hearted monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] those inauspicious puppets of international oppression!

During the day, the warriors of Islam, successfully carrying out (Mersad) operations under the holy codename Oh 'Ali [Ya 'Ali], managed to liberate the city of Eslamabad and to establish themselves there.

In the course of these successful operations, the capable forces of Islam managed to completely encircle the city of Eslamabad-e Gharb from several directions.

Entering the city during a brave battle, they annihilated hundreds of Iraqi aggressor Ba'thist Army personnel and puppet lackeys of international oppression.

Among the dead are more than 1,100 monafeqin. The forces of Islam, having completely purged the city, managed to chase the enemy to the other side of the operational theater and move toward the international border.

The children of you God-seeking people also repulsed enemy attacks in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb, and Sumar axis, and forced them to retreat after killing more than 900 Iraqi personnel.

In addition, in operations to repulse enemy aggression in Piranshahr region, the warriors of Islam managed to annihilate 1,200 enemy personnel, completely destroying one Iraqi brigade and two battalions, and liberating Height 2597.

The heroic defenders of proud Islam also managed to repulse the attack of the aggressor Iraqi Army in Shalamcheh and Zeydi regions, where the 12th, 501st, and 418th Brigades, as well as two tank battalions and other regrouped Iraqi units attempted an attack. They were forced to retreat after losing dozens of tanks, personnel carriers, and other vehicles.

In this victorious clash, the 12th Brigade and 2d Battalion of the 418th Brigade and two tank battalions of the 501st Brigade of the Iraqi Army were 80-percent destroyed by the capable arms of the IRGC self-sacrificers, and all their equipment was set afire.

Their personnel were either killed or wounded. The bodies of a number of Iraqi officers, including Captain (Fazil 'Abdallah Qasim Feysal) and (Hamid Sadiq) can be seen among the Iraqi casualties.

The high-flying eagles of the Army Air Corps carried out 30 sorties this afternoon, attacking enemy positions and armored equipment with their crushing fire.

The pilots of the Air Force carried out some 30 separate missions between 0955 and 1900 today, using their fighter-bombers to attack concentration points and locations of the armored units of the war-mongering regime of Iraq in Shalamcheh, Islamabad-e Gharb, and Sar-e Zahab regions, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the mercenary Iraqi forces.

They all returned to their bases safely after completing their missions. With the assistance of God, victory will be at hand.

Further on Eslamabad Operation

LD2607172888 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—According to a military communique released by the general command headquarters of the Armed Forces, Eslamabad-e Gharb [name as received] town in Bakhtaran Province was liberated during a successful operation code-named 'Mersad' (Ambuscade) today.

Iran's Muslim combatants victoriously entered the town after closing in on enemy troops from various axes and in a fierce battle killed and wounded hundreds of Ba'thist soldiers and their mercenaries.

Corpses of 1,100 members of the outlawed MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] organization were counted among the killed.

Shortly after the town was completely purged of the invaders, Iranian combatants chased enemy troops beyond the war theater and continued their advance towards the international borders.

Meanwhile, Iranian forces smashed several Iraqi attacks on Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar in western Iran today, killing 900 enemy soldiers and forcing the others to retreat.

Choppers 'Mopping Up' West

LD2607181288 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Helicopter gunships of the Army aviation service (Havanirouz) relentlessly struck at enemy positions, killing and wounding a considerable number of Iraqis and destroying a sizable quantity of their armoured equipment during more than 160 sorties in the western fronts today.

The Iranian helicopters are now busy mopping up the western operational regions along with infantry units of the Iranian combatants.

IRGC Kills 300 Iraqis

LD2707083288 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—The Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) attacked positions of Iraq's Brigade-85 of the Eighth Division of Shalamcheh theater, west of the Iranian port city of Khorramshahr, today killing and wounding at least 300 Iraqis and capturing tens of others.

An Iraqi battalion was demolished and tens of tanks and personnel carriers and other hardware of the Iraqis were demolished during the assault.

More on Khorramshahr Fighting

LD2707092388 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) attacked Iraqi positions north of Khorramshahr in the southern border strip and pushed the Iraqis out of the Iranian soil early today.

During the operations, 30 square kms of Iranian territory were liberated and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy forces.

Muslim combatants of iran raided positions of the Eighth Mechanized Division, Armoured Brigade-12, Second Commando Brigade, three tank battalions Al-Mo'tasam', 'Al-Qadesiye' and 'Al-Qatiw', and a Third Mechanised Battalion of the First Division. The Muslim combatants also besieged and demolished an Iraqi brigade.

Fighting still continues in the area.

Bombing Raid Near Ilam

LD2707084288 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Ilam, July 27, IRNA—Iraqi war planes bombarded residential areas near Ilam, capital of Ilam Province Wednesday morning.

No report is yet available on the extent of damage and casualties.

Iraqi Positions Bombed

LD2707093488 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran July 27, IRNA—Iranian fighters bombed positions of Iraqi armoured forces in the southern and western war fronts during nine sorties inflicting heavy casualties upon enemy forces.

The missions were carried out at 05:55, 06:18, 07:25, 07:27, 09:14, 09:53, 10:11, 10:13, and 10:19 hours local time (02:25, 02:48, 03:55, 03:57, 05:44, 06:23, 06:41, 04:43 and 04:49 hours GMT) today.

The fighters returned to bases safely.

Iraqis 'Driven' Over Border

LD2707095688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0924 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Heroic ummah, please pay attention. According to a report received from the southern operational sector, the sons of Islamic Iran have totally destroyed a brigade under the command of the III Corps of the Iraqi Ba'thists which they had fully encircled, and killed, wounded, or captured a large number of the aggressor Saddamists.

Once again, the aggressors and infidels were put to the sword of the followers of Imam Hoseyn and another mark of courage—the courage of the Muslim nations—was registered in history.

Warrior nation of Iran. Pay attention to a report that we have just received.

Another kilometer of the territories of the Islamic homeland of Iran on the border strip to the north of Khorramshahr has been cleared of the filthy presence of the infidel Ba'thists.

Following a surprise attack by the combatants of Islam at dawn today, which was conducted with the cooperation of the popular and tribal forces of Khuzestan province against the positions of the Iraqi occupiers, on the axis north of Khorramshahr, the aggressor Saddamists again became confused, leaving behind more than 1,200 killed or wounded and a number of troops captured, and, losing a substantial amount of armor, facilities and armoured equipment, they were driven to the other side of the international borders by your mighty brave and heroic sons, oh you heroic nation.

Navy 'Ready' for Combat

LD2707103388 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Bushehr, July 27, IRNA—Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan said here Wednesday that the war has not ended with acceptance of the UN Resolution 598, and that the Navy will be ready to defend Iran's territorial waters.

The commander who is here to review Navy positions in Bushehr Naval Base and also inaugurate the new commander for the base Colonel Bahaman Shafiqi said the Navy will continue to do as directed by the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Imam Khomeyni, and his deputy. He said that the Navy will maintain its readiness for future operations.

Plane Violates Ilam Airspace

LD2707105288 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Ilam, July 27, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane violated the airspace of Ilam province in western Iran at 10:48 hours local time (07:18 hours GMT) today breaking the sound barrier over Ilam city.

The airplane which flew at a high altitude fled under heavy ground-to-air fire of Muslim combatants.

Iraqi Plane Shot Down in West

LD2707110888 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Iranian anti-aircraft units shot down an Iraqi warplane in the western region at 11:01 hours (07:31 GMT) today.

The enemy plane exploded in mid-air.

Sri Lanka

Security Troops Placed on 'Maximum Alert'

BK2707055588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0534 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Colombo, July 27 (AFP)—Sri Lankan security forces went on maximum alert Wednesday amid reports that anti-government militants were planning violence to mark the anniversary of an ethnic peace pact, police said.

The dominant Tamil guerrilla group and Sinhalese militants have called a general strike Friday to protest the first anniversary of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign.

A police spokesman here said intelligence reports indicated that Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front) had planned large scale violence, mainly in southern regions, where the group has a stronghold.

"We cannot be complacent about these reports. All police stations and the military have gone on red alert. We have cancelled leave of all security personnel," the spokesman said.

Indian officials here confirmed that a similar alert was on in the island's northern and eastern provinces where the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are waging a bush war against some 52,000 Indian soldiers.

The LTTE too has announced a day of protest Friday and called a general strike in Tamil areas.

Residents in the southern province contacted by telephone said that JVP posters had come up in the region urging people to stay indoors and switch off lights after dark on Friday to symbolise that the "nation is in darkness."

The posters also urged residents to put up black flags in protest of the accord under which New Delhi sent its troops to the island's north and east to replace Sri Lankan security forces.

The JVP is violently opposed to the Indo-Lanka agreement and has been accused of killing over 300 supporters of the ruling party and leftwingers for backing the treaty.

In a speech strongly defending the accord, Mr. Jayewardene said the agreement had prevented the division of his strife-torn island nation.

"Our security forces have not suffered any Tamil guerrilla attacks against them in the past year. That is a great achievement," Mr. Jayewardene said here Tuesday.

"Except those who want destruction and those who find satisfaction in murder and death should support the (peace) pact," he said. He also announced that regional elections would be held soon in the Tamil dominated north and east aimed at ending the five-year bloody separatist campaign.

"I hope to hold provincial council elections in the north and east in a few weeks... They (councils) will start functioning soon," Mr. Jayewardene said. He said all Tamil militant groups, except the LTTE, have accepted the peace plan and were prepared to take part in political activity.

Political analysts here said Mr. Jayewardene's remarks on early polls indicated that he was prepared to press ahead with elections even without the participation of the LTTE.

The LTTE was among six Tamil rebel groups which initially accepted the peace accord, but later repudiated it prompting an Indian offensive October 10 to disarm the group.

Since then, more than 525 Indians and over 2,000 suspected Tamil rebels have died in bitter fighting.

Indian Embassy Steps Up Security Measures

BK2707065688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Colombo, July 27 (AFP)—The Indian High Commission (embassy) here has stepped up its security measures amid reports that Sinhalese militants were planning to attack Indian interests in Sri Lanka, officials said Wednesday.

The anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP—Peop'e's Liberation Front) which opposes the July 29, 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord of last year has said it will target Indian interests "from now on," officials said.

Indian officials here said they had not received direct threats but security at the high commission and residences of Indian diplomats had been stepped up in consultation with Sri Lankan authorities.

An unsigned postcard received by a Western news organisation here said the JVP's military wing will attack "all Indian interests in Sri Lanka from now on."

The threat came as the JVP put up posters in southern Sri Lanka, a Sinhalese militant stronghold, urging people to observe a day of protest Friday to mark the first anniversary of the peace agreement which sought to end a five-year Tamil separatist campaign.

"In the context of the JVP calling anti-accord protests, it is possible they will try to attack Indians. So we have taken appropriate security measures," an Indian official said.

The JVP is violently opposed to the peace plan under which New Delhi has some 52,000 troops stationed in Sri Lanka's north and east.

9 LTTE Men Killed by Peacekeeping Force in North

BK2607130888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, nine LTTE men were killed in an operation by the peacekeeping force [PKF] at (Nettikai-kulam) in the northern province.

The area, which has the hideout of the LTTE leader, Balraj, has been cleared of LTTE men.

The PKF lost four of its men, while some others suffered injuries.